

October 13, 2021

From: Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

Subject: Cyber Awareness Month 2021 – Cyber Protection Strategy

October is internationally recognized as cyber security awareness month. This year as part of the Cyber Protection Strategy pilot initiative communicated to the boards on June 30, the ministry has committed to developing and sharing resources to improve boards' cyber resilience and mitigate the impact of cyber threats on students, educators and school boards. The following two resources are now available for the boards.

Cyber Awareness Month 2021

To support the K-12 Cyber Awareness Month (K-12 CAM) in October 2021 – resources have been developed in partnership with school boards and the Educational Computing Network of Ontario (ECNO) and were informed by industry and sector best practices. The K-12 CAM campaign (<https://ecno.org/cyber/k12cam2021/>) is a modified version of the internationally recognized Cyber Security Awareness Month campaign, tailored for the needs of the Ontario K-12 education environment.

As these and other resources become available, we encourage you to share the resources within your board and continue to advocate for greater awareness of good practices to help reduce cyber risk – helping to keep our students, educators, schools and school boards better protected online.

Cyber Awareness Calendar (2021/2022 school year)

To support a year-round focus on improving online safety, protection of privacy, and cyber security, please find attached a cyber tips calendar also available online (<https://ecno.org/cyber/calendar/>), with monthly themes and weekly prompts aligned to the themes. This document can be used as an online calendar or printed for use in learning and office spaces.

Both resources are available in French and English and have been targeted to a range of audiences: students, parents and educators. Your feedback on how we might continue to improve the quality of our resources is welcomed.

If you have any questions about the resources, please contact the project team at EDU.broadband@ontario.ca.

We look forward to continued collaboration with you in your cyber protection efforts in support of safer, more secure, school boards, schools, students and educators.

Yours sincerely,
Nancy Naylor

Attachments

c: Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards Association (ACÉPO)
Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
Secretary, Conseil ontarien des directions de l'éducation de langue française (CODELF)
Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
President of OSBCU, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
President, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
President, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
Executive Director, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)

Memo

Target Audience: Directorates of Education
Secretaries of School Authorities
Supervisory Officers