

Iowa EdTech Update

March 2025

Statewide Youth Broadband Advisory Council Update



**GUESTS MIKE KOOL AND CHRIS SIEVERS
FROM JOHN DEERE**

**Talking about sustainability,
automation, and innovation
for farmers.**

SYBAC
Statewide Youth Broadband Advisory Council

What happened at our March Meeting:

This month, we had the opportunity to meet with Mike Kool and Chris Sievers from John Deere. They engaged with the #IowaSYBAC students, discussing the company's initiatives, the advancements in artificial intelligence they are pursuing, and their vision for the future. Their goal is to develop products that promote sustainability and provide innovative support to farmers.

Additionally, they shared insights from their own career journeys, motivating students to consider a range of opportunities and illustrating how John Deere has played a pivotal role in helping them identify their strengths. They encouraged everyone to seize career opportunities as they arise, as these experiences may lead to the discovery of a passion or a true calling.



We are looking for our 2025-2026 SYBAC Students!

Applications will be open April 10. If you know a high school student passionate about technology, encourage them to apply for our youth broadband council. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to connect with industry professionals, ask questions, and discover career options available in Iowa.

[Learn More about SYBAC](#)

Upcoming Events

We have two upcoming Security Exchange Sessions that you won't want to miss. These sessions are designed to empower participants with essential knowledge, enabling them to delve into a variety of strategies and tools. By attending, you'll greatly enhance your cyber security awareness and practices.



**Register to attend the
Security Exchange Sessions on the following
dates:**

April 16 from 10 AM - 11 AM
Hunting for Malfunctioning FDB



Planning for Implementing LER

June 11 from 10 AM - 11 AM

Baselining A Windows System

Register Today!

HIGHLIGHTED SERVICE



EXPERT CONSULTATION

HELPING SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES
WITH BROADBAND PROJECTS
BIG OR SMALL



Consultation Services

As we come back from spring break and get closer to the end of the school year, it's a great time to think about what needs to be done at your school. Are you thinking about modernizing your phone and internet systems? Have you thought about fiber management and designing a network system? Are there places in and around your building that could use some updates? Let us help.

Find Out More!

Internet2's Presidential Primary Sources Project



Ending soon!

You still have a chance to join some of the FREE interactive webinars from the Presidential Primary Resources Project, designed for grades 4-12. More exciting sessions are on the way, so don't let this enjoyable and educational opportunity pass you by!

Here are the upcoming webinars:

- April 1 - Leadership in a Time of Crisis: The Oklahoma City Bombing, Clinton Presidential Library and Museum
- April 3 - President Grant and Civil Rights, Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site

👉 As we conclude this year's webinars, remember the excitement continues! Explore Internet2's wealth of free educational resources [on their website!](#), covering science, history, arts, culture, and more.

Iowa Communications Network (ICN) is Iowa's only authorized Research & Education Network giving our education customers exclusive access to [Internet2 services](#).

Register Today!

FREE Coding Resource for Your Class

W3SCHOOLS

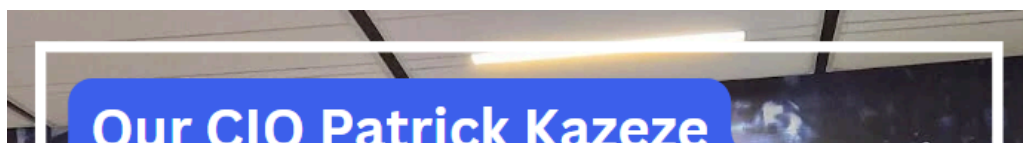
Explore one of the biggest free web development platforms designed to help you teach coding to your students.



W3Schools is a free resource for students and aspiring developers, offering a variety of web development courses and free coding templates. It features the "TryIt Editor," allowing users to modify examples, test, and run code safely. W3Schools aims to provide straightforward and interactive learning experiences for all skill levels, using clear code examples and visuals to explain concepts.

Try it Out!

In the News





Our CIO Patrick Kazeze was invited to the "Save the Data" event hosted Drake University. He collaborated up with students who went through a play-by-play tabletop exercise that navigated a live ransomware attack scenario. He and other professionals were there to offer an inside look at how we and other organizations handle cybersecurity crises. One of the students excitedly remarked, "It's just like a movie but for real!"

This event was made possible thanks to the generous support of sponsors and hosts: Heartland Business Systems, Rubrik Inc., and the Technology Association of Iowa. It served as an excellent opportunity to connect business professionals with students, allowing them to experience real-life scenarios and ask questions for a deeper understanding.

Iowa STEM Resources



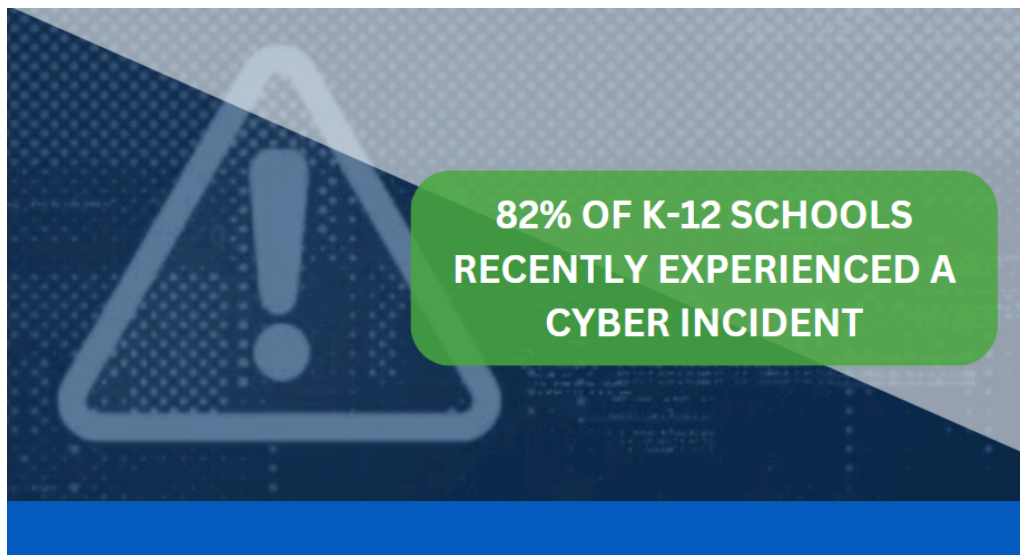
Governor's Stem Advisory Council and The Iowa Department of Education

Did you know that the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council and the Iowa Department of Education offer a variety of online resources? You can access free materials to boost your students' understanding of STEM and guide them toward exciting careers here in Iowa.

They provide career videos that show how classroom learning relates to real STEM jobs in Iowa. There are also podcasts featuring insights from experts discussing the importance of STEM education today. Additionally, you'll find Teachable Moments, a collection of activities and lessons organized by grade level to make the most of learning time for you and your students. And there is so much more to explore.

[Read More](#)

82% of K-12 schools recently experienced a cyber incident



K-12 Dive

By Anna Merod

The data shows that schools are “prime targets for cybercriminals,” the center’s report said. And the fallout from K-12 cyberattacks often extends beyond data loss, with disruptions to school meal service, forced school closures or blocked access to crucial student services like special education and counselling, according to the report.

The report further shared cybercriminals’ latest tactics and patterns for targeting K-12 systems. For instance, they are increasingly focusing on attacks to the human element of network vulnerabilities through phishing and social engineering rather than on technical weaknesses. This is often done by tricking staff into revealing login credentials by posing as trusted officials.

[Read More](#)

More Than a Newsletter



Do you want to know more about us and what we do?

You can check out past editions of our newsletters and sign up for more, uncovering all the amazing content we offer [on our website](#).

About the Iowa Communications Network

The ICN is a state-of-the-art fiber optic network providing broadband and telecommunications services to its authorized users including high-speed Internet, data, voice, security, and consulting services. The authorized users of the ICN include: K-12 schools, higher education, hospitals and clinics, state and federal government, public safety, National Guard armories, & libraries.

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