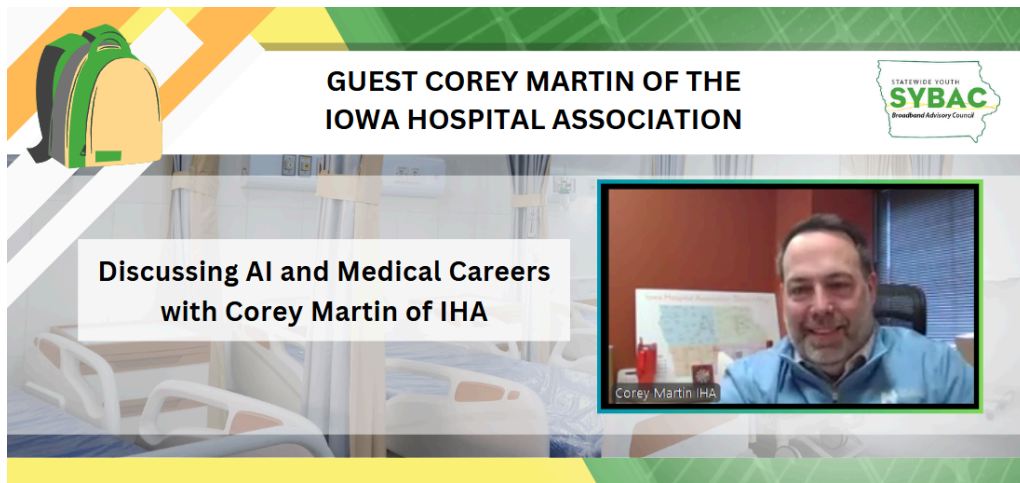


## **Iowa EdTech Update**

February 2025

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## Statewide Youth Broadband Advisory Council Update



### What happened at our February SYBAC Meeting:

During this month's SYBAC meeting, we had the chance to talk with Corey Martin from the Iowa Hospital Association about his organization's collaboration with the ICN on the [Iowa Rural Health Telecommunications Program \(IRHTP\)](#). This program aims to ensure that rural hospitals and clinics across Iowa have secure and reliable internet connections.

Corey also talked about the role of AI in improving healthcare and driving tech innovations. He emphasized the crucial need for cybersecurity experts and IT staff to protect medical records, manage IT equipment, and keep patient data safe. He mentioned that this could be a fantastic career path for anyone who hasn't considered it before.

[More about SYBAC](#)

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## 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 EDR

**June 11 from 10 AM - 11 AM**

Baselining A Windows System

**Register Today!**

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## HIGHLIGHTED SERVICE



## Data Connections

As a top-notch data transport provider for various sectors in Iowa, including Education, Public Safety, Healthcare, and Government, we have two excellent options to connect your organization. We provide both internet and ethernet connectivity.

Our [internet](#) and [ethernet](#) connections are designed to be scalable, redundant, and secure. We work with you to find the best solution that matches the size and requirements of your organization. Our services can be scaled from 5Mbps to an impressive 10Gbps. We ensure reliable connections that remain online, and we monitor for outages, cyber threats, and intrusions 24/7.

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## E-RATE Update

### E-Rate News for K-12 Education & Library Customers



Schools and libraries can improve their network technology through the federal E-rate program.

The E-Rate application filing window is now open and will close on **March 26, 2025**.

To access E-rate funding, institutions must complete a detailed application process, including competitive bidding for services to ensure transparency in provider selection. For more information on eligible services, see our [E-rate Services](#) article.

Do you need more assistance? [Contact your Account Consultant for more info.](#)

[Our E-rate Webpage](#)

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## Internet2's Presidential Primary Sources Project





Get ready to take your students on an amazing adventure through the historic sites that influenced our past presidents! The Presidential Primary Resources Project, in partnership with Internet2, the National Park Service, and the National Archives, offers FREE interactive webinars for grades 4-12 in 2025, with more engaging sessions to come. Don't miss out on this fun and informative experience!

Here are the upcoming webinars:

- February 27 - The Tuskegee Airman
- March 4 - Lou Henry Hoover: Challenging Conventions Since 1898
- March 11 - Frontier Adventures, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS and Lincoln Boyhood NM
- March 13 - 202 Years of Presidential Connections

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

**Register Today!**

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## FREE Coding Resource for Your Class

### Flexbox Froggy

What seems like a simple game teaches a huge lesson in CSS in a fun and engaging way for your students.



Flexbox Froggy is a free web-based game that teaches your class about the responsive web design and layout module **CSS Flexbox** in a fun way. The goal is to help the frogs get back to their lily pads by writing some code. This is a great tool that makes layout design super easy, letting you change alignment, spacing, and wrapping.

manipulate text, design, copy, paste, testing, join, change alignment, spacing, and mapping with a simple fill-in-the-blank coding format.

You don't have to sign up; just jump right in and play in your browser. It's a fun and quick way for students to pick up some coding skills without the hassle of setup, long explanations, or worrying about costs. Plus, it's totally free!

[Try it Out!](#)

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## Article Awareness

### 6 Free Edtech Credentials for Educators



#### Tech&Learning

*By Stephanie Smith Budhai, Ph.D.*

These six free edtech credentials provide useful professional learning with a credential for teachers in all academic areas and grade level.

Many of the widely available edtech tools offer free training. Some are specific to a function of a larger tool, while others provide general guidance on key features and uses. Additionally, upon completion and depending on the tool, you may earn a certificate of completion, certification, badge, microcredential, or some other recognition of your earned competency to your resume or CV...

[Read More](#)

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## 2025 Cybersecurity Predictions for K-20 Education



### Campus Technology

*By: Rhea Kelly*

In an open call last month, we asked education and industry leaders for their predictions on the cybersecurity landscape for schools, districts, colleges, and universities in 2025. Here's what they told us.

Quote from the article:

Protecting students' digital identities will be a growing K-12 cybersecurity challenge in 2025 and beyond. While districts have traditionally focused on safeguarding schools from ransomware attacks, we're seeing a concerning shift toward targeted attacks on individual student accounts. The stakes are particularly high considering the personal information these accounts contain that could impact students well into their futures. Most concerning, perhaps, is the stark security gap between student accounts and those of teachers and staff — with student credentials often protected by only basic password requirements.

[Read More](#)



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## How K–12 Can Get a Head Start on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math



### Ed Tech Focus on K-12

By: **KIMBERLY M. NIEBAUER**

A 2024 National Science Board report recently shared troubling news that K–12 teachers have known for a while: The U.S. is facing a “STEM talent crisis.”

The State of U.S. Science and Engineering 2024 report goes on to say, “We are not producing STEM workers in either sufficient numbers or diversity to meet the workforce needs of the 21st century knowledge economy.”

As a teacher of K–5 gifted students at Duval County (Fla.) Public Schools, I’m doing my part to introduce my students to science, technology, engineering and math skills as early as the first grade.

I believe that by introducing STEM concepts at a young age, we can spark curiosity and a love for learning that can last a lifetime...

[Read More](#)

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## More Than a Newsletter

### 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.

### Contact Us

Iowa Communications Network

Phone (515) 725-4692

Toll Free: (877) 426-4692