



- Research Departments
- Student Account Services

Attackers often impersonate:

- University leadership
- Vendors
- IT Support
- Student loan services

⚠ **Reminder:** Never approve financial transfers, payroll changes, or gift card purchases without direct verification.

### **Ransomware & Schools**

Educational institutions continue to be high-value ransomware targets due to:

- Sensitive student records
- Limited operational downtime
- Distributed networks

**Common entry points include:**

- Compromised staff credentials
- Unpatched VPNs
- Remote desktop exposure
- Phishing-based malware

**Institutional Focus This Month:**

- Review and test backup restoration
- Confirm MFA enforcement for faculty & staff
- Audit privileged IT accounts
- Patch externally facing systems

### **Student Cyber Awareness Corner**

Students are often targeted with:

- Fake job offers
- “Account suspension” scams
- Scholarship phishing emails
- Social media impersonation

#### **Tips for Students:**

- Use strong, unique passwords
- Enable MFA on all school accounts
- Avoid using school credentials for third-party sites
- Report suspicious emails immediately

#### **Faculty & Staff Security Tip**

##### **Protecting Research & Intellectual Property**

Be cautious of:

- Collaboration invitations from unknown contacts
- Requests for unpublished research
- Suspicious file-sharing links

Always verify external research partnerships through official channels.

##### **Education Sector Snapshot**

- Education remains among the most targeted industries globally
- Phishing is the leading attack vector
- Most breaches begin with compromised credentials

Strong MFA adoption significantly reduces breach impact.

##### **Building a Culture of Cyber Responsibility**

Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility across:

- Students
- Faculty
- Administrative Staff

- IT Teams

Let's work together to protect our academic community through awareness, accountability, and proactive security practices.

Resources for more information on Cybersecurity

<https://www.getcybersafe.gc.ca/en>

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/>

<https://www.orion.on.ca/blog/>

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