

# K12 Cybersecurity Career Awareness for School Counselors and Administrators

## Cybersecurity is a promising field

but most students and teachers don't understand what a cybersecurity practitioner does. National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) is your one stop shop for cybersecurity career information, and the resources highlighted here only scratch the surface of what's available. Key to guiding your students is awareness that cybersecurity jobs span the FULL spectrum of educational disciplines. Many jobs require only high school and technical certifications to get started, some others are enhanced by college and post college education. There are subject matter experts available to reach into classrooms and provide detailed information on cybersecurity topics and the jobs they support.

### WHAT DIFFERENT CYBERSECURITY JOBS EXIST?



Not every cybersecurity job involves writing code! Instead, some jobs require knowledge about applications, the network, or operating systems. The NICE Cybersecurity Workforce Framework is a reference resource that includes work roles and corresponding knowledge, skills and abilities.

- NICE Framework [[nist.gov/nice/framework](https://nist.gov/nice/framework)]
- Cyberseek.org provides information about different entry-level jobs and suggests possible career pathways.
- National Cybersecurity Career Awareness Week resources. [[nist.gov/nice/nccaw](https://nist.gov/nice/nccaw)]
- NICERC Career Profiles [<https://nicerc.org/teacherresources/careerprofiles/>]

### HOW CAN STUDENTS SEE IF THEY ARE GOOD AT CYBERSECURITY?



Research suggests that a passion for learning and real curiosity is more important for a career in cybersecurity than technical skills or knowing how to write code. Get started by exploring National Cybersecurity Career Awareness Week Resources [[nist.gov/nice/nccaw](https://nist.gov/nice/nccaw)]

- Summer camps like those funded by GenCyber require no prior cybersecurity knowledge or experience.
- Grow their skillset through competitions like CyberPatriot where local elementary, middle school and high school groups practice and compete in challenges.
- Even if they have no experience with cybersecurity, they can play the challenges at SANS CyberStart [<https://www.sans.org/CyberStartUS>] or CyberAces programs or through Cybrary content [[cybrary.it](https://www.cybrary.it)]

### HOW TO TALK AND MEET WITH PRACTITIONERS?



Yes! Talking with someone who is performing a cybersecurity work role can be a great way to learn about the day to day tasks, challenges and learn what they love about the job. Some recommended resources to get you started are:

- Nepris.com connects practitioners and classrooms.
- Visit [nist.gov/nice/nccaw](https://nist.gov/nice/nccaw) for speaker options, contacts, and speaker tips.
- Visit the Cyber Center for Education and Innovation [cryptologicfoundation.org](https://cryptologicfoundation.org) for additional speaker suggestions.
- Many cybersecurity membership associations provide speakers for school events! Check out the Speakers Bureau or local chapters of organizations such as ISC(2), ISSA, ISACA, or WiCyS.

### CAN STUDENTS MAKE A GOOD LIVING AT CYBERSECURITY?



The average starting salary ranges from \$89-98,000

- CyberSeek.org shows more than 504,316 unfilled cybersecurity jobs - some in every industry and in every state. You can search jobs and explore career pathways at [Cyberseek.org](https://www.cyberseek.org).
- Many jobs don't require a college degree, and employers will often pay for additional training or degrees once you've been hired.

\* Cyberseek.org as of March 2020

Visit [nist.gov/nice/nccaw](https://nist.gov/nice/nccaw) or [nist.gov/nice/nicewg](https://nist.gov/nice/nicewg) to access additional cybersecurity career resources. Learn more about cybersecurity education for K12 with the NICE Working Group K12 Subgroup or email us at [nist.nice@nist.gov](mailto:nist.nice@nist.gov).