

Data Security—What's Your Plan?

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No doubt about it, today's K-12 education organizations face daily challenges related to data security. While protecting IT systems against attacks is a key function of the IT department, it is critical for K-12 IT leaders to recognize that the roles and responsibilities of IT extend well beyond simply protecting against attack.

A key component of data security requires understanding the need to protect information assets across multiple platforms throughout their life cycle. Assets that must be protected in consistent, secure, and reasonable ways include:

- Personally identifiable information
- Personal health information
- Nonpublic private information and financial data
- Intellectual property
- Business-critical information

It is no longer sufficient or appropriate to utilize a wide-angle approach to data security by protecting just the enterprise systems themselves. The systems are not the target; it is the data that holds the value and therefore the risk. Consequently, data security must be core to any successful data security program. As Ouellet and Wheatman (2009) suggest, individuals and/or organizations don't get sued because of a router compromise! It is what happens after the router is compromised—the resulting data loss, modification, or exposure.

The four basic requirements of data security programs include:

Confidentiality – Protect against unauthorized or inappropriate access to information.

Integrity – Ensure information is not modified or tampered with inappropriately

Availability – Provide appropriate access to stakeholders.

Privacy – Assure that personal information is used for previously identified purpose for which it was collected.

Learn more about developing and implementing an Enterprise Data Security Program by requesting the complete, original Gartner Article as outlined at the bottom of this page.

**Individual copies of this original, complete Gartner Research Report may be requested through [TechConnect](#), the Education IT Peer Networking Community (a service of the San Diego County Office of Education). Log on to your [TechConnect](#) account and join the [Information Technology Research Community](#) to request your individual copy. For more information or to join TechConnect, visit <http://www.techconnectk12.org>*

Request: [Article-110-TypicalElementsOfAnEnterpriseDataSecurityProgram.pdf](#)

Oullet, E, & Wheatman, J. (2009, August 27). Typical elements of an enterprise data security program. *Gartner Research, G00169465, 1-8.*