DATE:	June 15, 2023
SUBJECT:	TX K-12 Cybersecurity Initiative
CATEGORY:	Cybersecurity Funding Opportunity for LEAs
NEXT STEPS:	Share with district administration and technology staff

September 1, 2023, so the services can be distributed as soon as possible. After the inter-local agreement is in place, eligible LEAs may then request in scope services through the STS program, which will be paid for by TEA starting September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2025. The MSS vendor, AT&T, or your regional education service center may reach out to your LEA to help facilitate this process. Details about this process were discussed in the April Cybersecurity Coordinator call, and a recording can be accessed here, which includes additional resources with instructions and scope: https://tea.texas.gov/academics/learning-support-and-programs/technology-planning/k-12-cybersecurity-initiative

You may register for the Cybersecurity Coordinator Forum series at this URL using your LEA email address: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8234183618339320587
The next scheduled webinar is scheduled for June 28th @ 11am CDT.

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION OF EDR PER LEA ENROLLMENT
It is TEA's intention to focus on small and rural LEAs for the distribution of Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) services through DIR's Managed Security Services (MSS). The EDR provided, which replaces traditional anti-virus software and incorporates threat intelligence along with malicious behavior characteristics on endpoints, will be fully managed to eliminate additional LEA overhead and is one of the best solutions to prevent ransomware and secure devices. The current vendors under the MSS contract for EDR are CrowdStrike and SentinelOne. To provide a scope that we can reasonably accommodate with the funding provided, **TEA will limit the distribution for LEAs with a total enrollment of 15,000 and below, with a range from 30 licenses up to licenses equal to 10% of student enrollment, whichever is larger.** It is TEA's intent to **focus on high-risk and impact devices,** so **initial distribution should focus on servers and central office staff with any remaining licenses distributed to other staff devices that have access to sensitive data.** .

SECURITY ASSESSMENTS BASED ON SAMPLING OF LEAs BY SIZE
Security assessments will also be available to LEAs as part of this initiative and will also be provided by AT&T through DIR's services catalog. The intent of these assessments is to provide a high-level look at the overall state of cybersecurity in Texas' K-12 public entities. TEA will not receive detailed copies of reports for any individual LEA. **Scope of and availability of the assessments will be based on a sampling of LEAs by size.** Once those assessments are set up in the STS program, we will provide guidance to interested parties on how to request those assessments through the STS program.

DORKBOT SERVICE
Finally all LEAs will be signed up with the Dorkbot web application vulnerability notification service. Dorkbot is an automated system run by the University of Texas – Austin, that uses publicly available information to identify vulnerable public facing systems on K-12 networks. Currently designated cybersecurity coordinators for each LEA will be the point of contact for any findings the service uncovers, so please ensure those designations are up to date in AskTED. Please reach out to your district AskTED coordinator or email