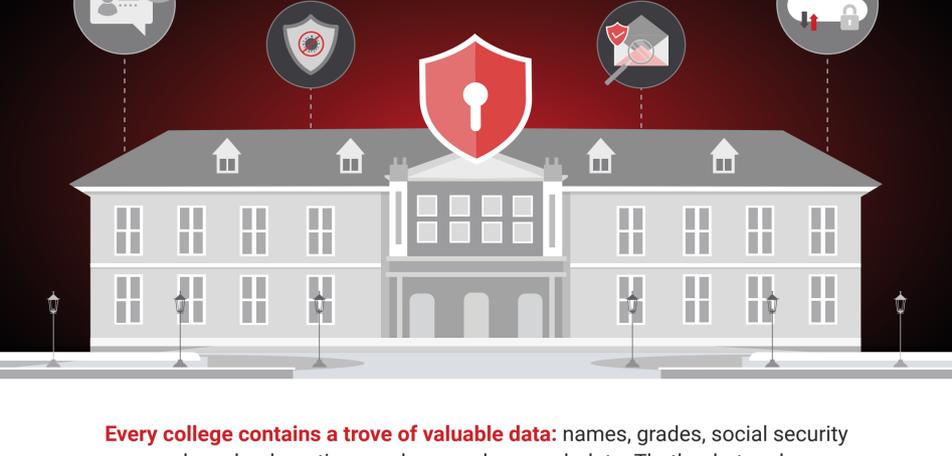


# CAMPUS SECURITY

Protecting Students and Their Data

How to Find the Unseen Risks



**Every college contains a trove of valuable data:** names, grades, social security numbers, bank routing numbers, and research data. That's what makes institutes of higher learning a prime target for hackers—**and why schools cannot compromise on cybersecurity.**

## The Threat Landscape Grows

Data breaches, phishing, and insider threats remain the top cyber risks. Any intrusion can open the door to ransomware, often the costliest type of attack—and one that universities are often quick to pay.

**\$4.4M**

Average cost of a data breach<sup>1</sup>

**Nearly \$1M**

Average cost of recovery<sup>2</sup>

**67%**

of colleges pay the ransom to restore encrypted data.<sup>3</sup>



IT teams are getting better at finding and stopping ransomware attacks midstream. But there's plenty of room for improvement.



**38%** of colleges stopped an attack before data was encrypted.<sup>4</sup>

## Risks Cross Borders

The number of tracked threat actors increased 400% worldwide from 2024 to 2025, and hackers from the "Big Four" cybersecurity nation-states all have higher education in their crosshairs.<sup>5</sup>

## Higher Ed Is Highly Vulnerable

As cybercriminals get more sophisticated, college networks offer multiple points of entry, including:



**Large attack surfaces** spanning research labs, classrooms, dorms, and admin offices.



**Legacy technology** such as older printers and multifunction devices (MFDs) that lack updated security protocols.



**Decentralized IT** with inconsistent security practices and protocols.



**Continuous student and staff turnover** requiring non-stop identification management.



**Bring-your-own-device (BYOD) environments** where students and staff can access materials from personal devices.



## Invisible Threats Loom Large

Colleges cannot fix vulnerabilities they cannot see, and a lack of IT visibility leaves them dangerously exposed.



**49%** of universities say **unknown security gaps** were the root cause of breaches.<sup>11</sup>

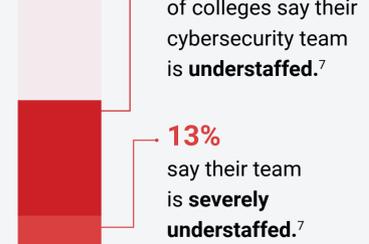


**35%** of higher ed ransomware attacks came from **exploited vulnerabilities**.<sup>12</sup>

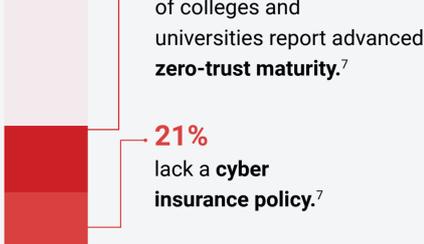
## Colleges and Universities Can't Keep Up

Historically, institutes of higher learning devote **3% to 12%** of their IT budget toward cybersecurity. But that's not enough to overcome serious gaps in staffing, preparedness, and response.<sup>6</sup>

### Staffing



### Preparedness



### Response



## Fortify Your Campus

IT teams can move closer to zero-trust maturity by securing their printers, scanners, and MFDs. Best practices include:



**Consolidate Devices**  
Retire one-off printers and move toward networked devices for greater control.



**Digitize Workflows**  
Create an end-to-end process that makes the printing of personal student information secure.



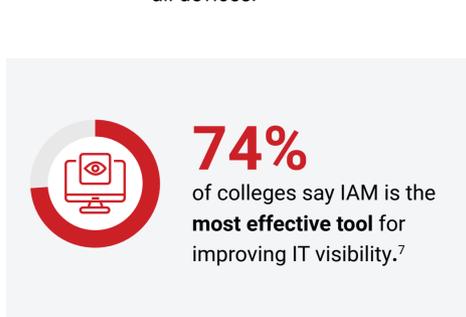
**Improve Identity and Access Management (IAM)**  
Require a badge swipe so only authorized personnel can access printers.



**Use Proven Frameworks**  
Choose solutions aligned with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) cybersecurity guidelines.



**Implement Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)**  
Require two methods (such as an ID card and a PIN) for all devices.



## Let Canon Lead the Way

With a unified ecosystem of secure Canon devices, print management tools, and security services, districts can protect their print infrastructure and allow administrators and faculty to stay focused on learning.

Sources:  
<sup>1</sup>IBM, "2025 Cost of a Data Breach Report," August 2025.  
<sup>2</sup>Sophos, "The State of Ransomware in Education 2025," September 2025.  
<sup>3</sup>Sophos, "The State of Ransomware in Education 2024," July 2024.  
<sup>4</sup>Sophos, "The State of Ransomware in Education 2025," September 2025.  
<sup>5</sup>Quorum Cyber, "Emerging Cyber Threats in the Higher Education Sector in 2025," March 2025.  
<sup>6</sup>Higher Ed Dive, "Cyberattacks keep targeting colleges: How can they protect themselves?," November 2021.  
<sup>7</sup>EdTech Magazine, "Survey Reveals Top Cybersecurity Issues in Education," June 2024.