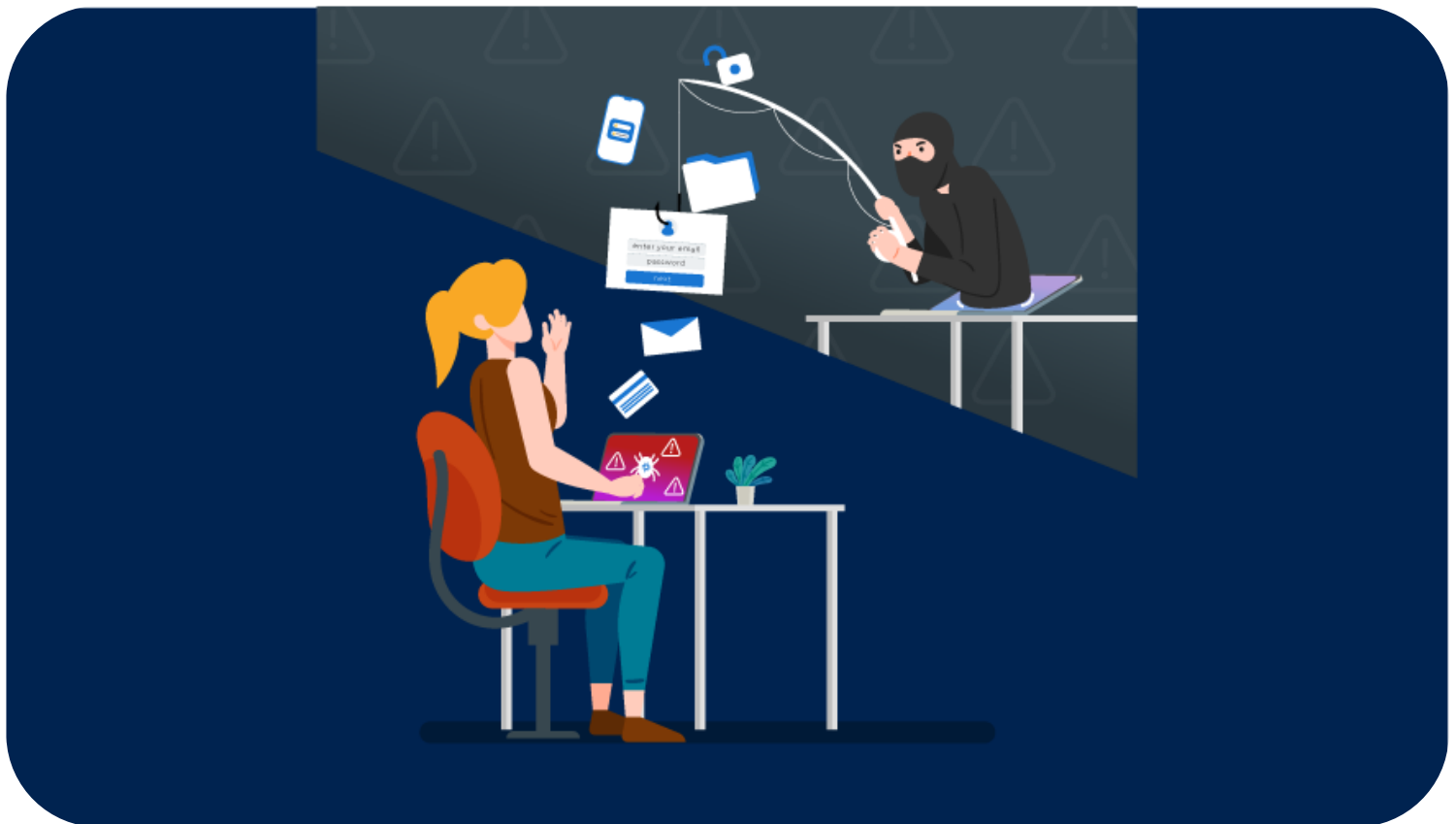# trust
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Schools: Treasure Trove of Data, Target for Hackers, Can We Keep Our Kids Safe Online?

2024

Schools collect a lot of personal information about students, including grades, health records, and even Social Security numbers. This information is important for educational and administrative purposes, but it also makes schools attractive targets for hackers.

A recent example of this vulnerability occurred in Minneapolis schools, where hackers broke into the school system and stole sensitive information. They demanded a ransom, and when the school district refused to pay, they released the stolen data online. This kind of cyberattack can have serious consequences for students, affecting everything from their financial security to their personal reputation.

One reason schools are easy targets for hackers is that many don't have enough funding to invest in high-quality cybersecurity measures. Their computer systems may be outdated and not well-protected against the latest threats. Additionally, schools have a wealth of information that is valuable to

hackers, making them attractive targets.

The impact of these cyberattacks can be long-lasting, potentially affecting students' future job prospects and personal relationships. To address this, schools need more resources to upgrade their cybersecurity systems. Administrators must prioritize keeping their computer networks safe and secure.

Furthermore, HHS has emphasized how critical it is to strengthen cybersecurity resilience in the healthcare industry. To strengthen defenses against cyber threats, the department unveiled a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy in December 2023. This strategy—in line with President Biden's NationalCybersecurity Strategy—emphasizes collaboration, responsibility, and improved coordination to protect hospitals, patients, and communities against cyberattacks.

To ensure the safety of students' information, it's crucial that everyone in the community, including parents, teachers, and policymakers, work together. Just as physical safety in schools is important, so is the safety of students' personal information online.

The cyberattack on Minneapolis schools serves as a stark reminder of the risks. It's time to take action to protect our children's information and ensure that schools are safe places for learning, both physically and digitally.

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