BECKER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

12000 Hancock Street

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Dr. Jeremy Schmidt, Superintendent

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MSBA Proposed Resolution Submission Form

Resolution #1: Cybersecurity

Full name of School District: Becker Public Schools

Full name of individual submitting for the school board: Dr. Jeremy Schmidt

Title/Position of individual submitting for the school board: Superintendent

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☒ **This resolution is submitted with approval by the school board**.

Please provide the date on which the authoring school board approved   submission of this resolution: September 9, 2024

BE IT RESOLVED MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO:

MSBA urges the legislature to prioritize and enhance cybersecurity measures across Minnesota schools by allocating dedicated funding and resources. This would include implementing a strategic cybersecurity plan that encompasses vulnerability assessments, staff training, incident response protocols, and infrastructure improvements to protect against potential cyber threats. Furthermore, MSBA recommends that the legislature consider the development of a statewide cybersecurity task force or similar, with appropriate funding to pay for the implementation and development of cybersecurity task force support, dedicated to supporting and guiding school districts in their efforts to secure sensitive information and maintain safe and reliable educational environments.

DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM:

Minnesota schools are increasingly vulnerable to cyberattacks, which could compromise the safety and security of student and staff information, disrupt educational operations, and lead to significant financial losses. As cyber threats become more sophisticated, schools must proactively enhance their cybersecurity defenses to prevent potential breaches.

EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS A PROBLEM:

Cybersecurity incidents in schools can lead to unauthorized access to confidential information, operational disruptions, and potential financial fraud. The growing frequency and severity of cyberattacks on educational institutions necessitate a more robust and proactive approach to cybersecurity. By strengthening cybersecurity measures, Minnesota schools can deter potential attackers and minimize the risks associated with these threats.

PROVIDE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

Supporting documentation includes references to recent state bills proposed and passed in California (SB 265) and Iowa (HF 452, HF 632) that have introduced measures for enhancing cybersecurity in public sectors, including schools. These legislative efforts highlight the critical importance of cybersecurity preparedness in safeguarding public institutions and provide a framework for similar actions in Minnesota.

California SB 265 (2023-2024 Regular Session): This bill, introduced by Senator Hurtado, emphasizes the need for a strategic, multiyear outreach plan to assist critical infrastructure sectors, including public and private sector computer networks, in improving cybersecurity. It outlines the requirement for state agencies to coordinate with various sectors and explore funding options for cybersecurity initiatives.

Iowa HF 452 (2023): This bill authorizes the expenditure of funds from the "Secure an Advanced Vision for Education" (SAVE) fund for cybersecurity purposes in school districts. It defines "cybersecurity event" and clarifies that school infrastructure funds can be used to protect against unauthorized access to or misuse of information systems.

Iowa HF 632 (2023): A successor to HF 452, this bill further solidifies the use of SAVE funds for cybersecurity by explicitly including the acquisition, development, and improvement of school information systems to protect against cybersecurity events. The bill outlines the framework for school districts to strengthen their technological defenses using these allocated state funds.

For MSBA Staff Use Only:

Date Received: *Click or tap to enter a date.*

File Name: *Click or tap here to enter text.*

Category: *Choose an item.*

Recommendation: *Choose an item.*

Present Position(s): *Click or tap here to enter text.*