



**Think Safe.  
Share Safe.  
Stay Safe Together.**



# K-12 Cyber Awareness Month 2026

October 1st - 31st, 2026

**DIGITAL ME** Secure Habits Matter

**DIGITAL FAMILIES** Healthy Digital Habits

**DIGITAL US** Respect & Protect Others

**DIGITAL MINDS** Smart & Responsible AI Use



Follow the Cyber Awareness Month social media channels and share the content!

Developed by:



Technology Leadership for  
Ontario's School Boards

Funded by:



For more information: [www.k-12cyberawareON.ca](http://www.k-12cyberawareON.ca)

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## Overview

K-12 Cyber Awareness Month helps students and families learn how to build safer, healthier, and more responsible digital habits. Through downloadable tools like videos and infographics, family conversation starters, social media campaign, and practical supports, Ontario school boards can help foster meaningful conversations about online safety, digital citizenship, wellbeing, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) both in schools and at home.

Digital technologies, online platforms, and AI continue to play an increasingly central role in how students and families learn, communicate, create, and access information. As these digital experiences evolve, school boards have an important role to play in supporting cyber awareness, privacy, digital wellbeing, and responsible technology use across their communities.

Cyber awareness is no longer solely an IT concern. It is a shared responsibility and an important life skill that affects students, families, educators, and school communities alike.

By working together, we can help ensure that students, families, and educators have the knowledge, confidence, and practical skills needed to navigate today's digital world safely and responsibly.

## What's New in 2026?

**K-12 Cyber Awareness Month reflects an important evolution in approach. While previous campaigns included an emphasis on classroom implementation, this year's campaign focuses more broadly on:**

- Building cyber-aware school communities
- Encouraging family engagement and discussions at home
- Supporting digital wellbeing
- Promoting privacy and online safety awareness
- Helping students and families understand responsible AI use
- Creating a culture of cyber awareness that extends beyond the classroom

**The resources are valuable for:**

- School newsletters
- Parent communications
- Websites
- Social media
- School events
- Digital signage
- Parent engagement activities
- Student leadership initiatives
- Classroom discussions

# How school boards can use this campaign

K-12 Cyber Awareness Month has been designed as a flexible, turnkey campaign that boards can implement entirely, partially, or adapt to local needs.

## 1. Family Engagement

Encourage schools to share campaign resources with parents and caregivers. The 2026 campaign places special emphasis on encouraging meaningful discussions at home about:

- Online safety
- Social media
- Cyberbullying
- Healthy technology use
- Privacy
- Artificial Intelligence

## 2. Communications & Awareness

Use the resources to build a cyber awareness campaign throughout October.

Ready-to-use communications assets include:

- Social media posts
- Graphics
- Videos
- Infographics
- Posters
- Newsletter content

## 3. School-Based Promotion

Encourage principals and school leaders to feature campaign content through:

- Newsletters
- School websites
- Parent communications
- Digital screens/signage
- Open houses
- School events
- Parent-teacher interviews

## 4. Create a Culture of Cyber Awareness

Promote cyber awareness discussions among:

- Senior administration
- IT leaders
- School staff
- Parent councils
- Student leadership groups
- Families

Cyber Awareness Month can serve as a catalyst for year-round conversations about cyber security, privacy, digital citizenship, wellbeing, and AI.

## Suggested Activities & Channels

The campaign has been designed to make participation easy:

| Channel                 | Suggested Activity                                                                    |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Website                 | Link directly to the K-12 CAM website and weekly themes.                              |
| Social Media            | Follow, share, and amplify CAM Facebook and Instagram content.                        |
| Newsletters             | Include weekly cyber awareness tips and campaign resources.                           |
| Parent Outreach         | Promote family discussion guides and conversation starters.                           |
| Posters                 | Display posters in schools, libraries, hallways, staff rooms and common areas.        |
| Digital Signage         | Display graphics, posters, and key messages.                                          |
| School Events           | Introduce weekly themes during assemblies, open houses, and parent engagement events. |
| Staff Meetings          | Include a brief cyber awareness update or resource spotlight.                         |
| Board-wide competitions | Creative media or writing competitions among students to promote cyber awareness.     |
| Classroom               | Discussion starters to support other curriculum-centred teaching.                     |
| Year-Round Use          | Revisit resources throughout the school year.                                         |

## Follow & Share

A coordinated social media campaign will run throughout October.

**Boards are encouraged to:**

- Follow campaign channels
- Share weekly content
- Amplify campaign messages
- Encourage discussion within their communities

**Website:** [www.k-12cyberawareon.ca](http://www.k-12cyberawareon.ca)



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**Digital Me – Secure Habits Matter** focuses on helping students and families build the knowledge and habits needed to stay safe online. From protecting personal information and managing digital footprints to recognizing scams, cyber threats, and other online risks, this theme encourages people to make informed choices and use technology with confidence. By developing strong digital habits early, students can better protect themselves, their accounts, and their privacy while building skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

## Key Topics

- Password security
- Multi-factor authentication
- Privacy and personal information
- Phishing, scams, and fraud
- Identity theft
- Safe downloads
- Digital footprints

## Featured Videos

- Phishing
- Identity Theft
- Mobile Devices

## Featured Infographics

- 6 Cyber Scams and How to Avoid Them
- 6 Tips for Strong Passwords
- 7 Ways to Keep Your Information Safe Online

## Family Conversation Starters

- What information should never be shared online?
- How do you know if a message can be trusted?
- Why are strong passwords important?
- What should you do if you think an account has been compromised?



[www.k-12cyberawareon.ca/digital-me](http://www.k-12cyberawareon.ca/digital-me)

**Digital Us – Respect & Protect Others** focuses on building positive, respectful, and safe online communities. Students and families are encouraged to think about how their actions affect others, communicate responsibly, and recognize the impact that social media, gaming, group chats, and other digital spaces can have on relationships and wellbeing. By practicing good digital citizenship, showing empathy, and looking out for others, we can help create online environments where everyone feels safe, respected, and included.

## Key Topics

- Digital citizenship
- Social media
- Online gaming
- Cyberbullying
- Online relationships
- Grooming and luring
- Respectful communication

## Featured Videos

- Social Media
- Online Gaming
- Cyberbullying

## Featured Infographics

- 8 Tips for Using Social Media Safely
- 8 Tips for Safe Gaming
- 5 Signs of Online Grooming and Luring

## Family Conversation Starters

- How do our online actions affect others?
- What are the signs of cyberbullying?
- What should someone do if they feel uncomfortable online?
- How can we help create respectful online communities?

[www.k-12cyberawareon.ca/digital-us](http://www.k-12cyberawareon.ca/digital-us)



# DIGITAL FAMILIES

## Healthy Digital Habits

**Digital Families – Healthy Digital Habits** focuses on helping families build healthy, balanced relationships with technology. Through practical tips, conversation starters, videos, and resources, this theme encourages families to work together to navigate challenges such as screen time, social media, digital wellbeing, and emerging technologies. By creating healthy routines and maintaining open conversations, families can help ensure technology supports learning, connection, safety, and wellbeing rather than becoming a source of stress or conflict.

### Key Topics

- Screen time
- Balance and boundaries
- Digital wellbeing
- Mental health
- Social media and self-esteem
- Family technology routines

### Featured Videos

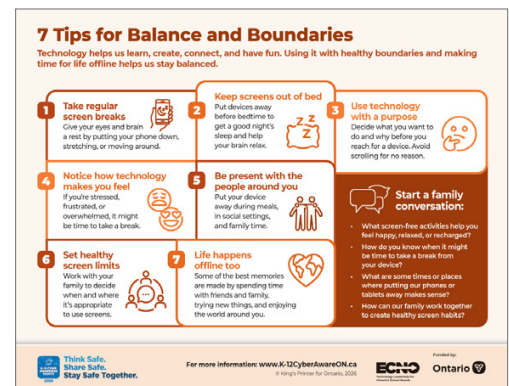
- Screen Time
- Balance & Boundaries
- Self-Esteem & Social Media

### Featured Infographics

- 7 Tips for Balance and Boundaries
- 8 Ways to Care for Yourself in a Digital World
- 6 Kinds of Cyberbullying

### Family Conversation Starters

- When is technology helpful?
- When might it be time for a break?
- What healthy boundaries work for our family?
- How can we encourage healthier digital habits?



[www.k-12cyberawareon.ca/digital-families](http://www.k-12cyberawareon.ca/digital-families)

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**Digital Minds – Smart & Responsible AI Use** focuses on helping students and families understand how Artificial Intelligence is shaping learning, communication, creativity, and everyday life. While AI can be a powerful tool for exploring ideas, solving problems, and supporting learning, it is important to recognize its limitations. This theme encourages people to think critically, verify information, protect their privacy, and use AI in ways that support human learning, judgment, and relationships. By developing AI literacy, students and families can use these emerging technologies safely, responsibly, and confidently.

## Key Topics

- Understanding AI
- AI literacy
- Critical thinking
- Fact checking
- AI and learning
- Privacy protection
- Human relationships and AI

## Featured Videos

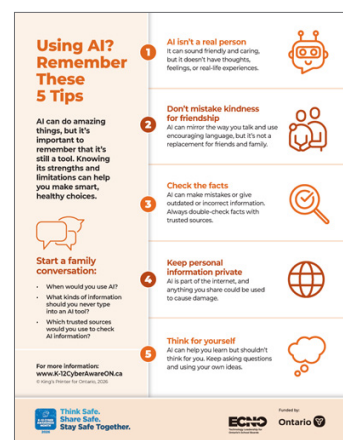
- AI & Learning
- AI & Truth
- AI Relationships

## Featured Infographics

- 6 Tips for Learning with AI
- Using AI? Remember These 5 Tips

## Family Conversation Starters

- How is AI being used every day?
- How can we verify AI information?
- What information should never be entered into AI tools?
- When is it better to ask a trusted person for help?



[www.k-12cyberawareon.ca/digital-minds](http://www.k-12cyberawareon.ca/digital-minds)

## Campaign Resources

The Resources section of the website contains downloadable materials that school boards can use throughout October and beyond.



## Available Downloads

The Resources page provides quick access to videos, infographics, posters, and supporting materials available throughout the website. Furthermore, this is also the only location to access:

- Campaign posters
- Archived 2025 Infosheets
- Calendar themes to initiate cyber awareness conversations

These resources remain valuable for boards seeking additional discussion materials and background information.

[www.k-12cyberawareon.ca/resources](http://www.k-12cyberawareon.ca/resources)

## New for 2026: Find Help page

Cyber awareness discussions can sometimes raise questions about cyberbullying, online harms, online exploitation, privacy concerns, scams, mental health, or digital wellbeing. The new Find Help page brings together trusted resources for students, families, and educators.

### Resources include:

- Kids Help Phone
- Cybertip.ca
- NeedHelpNow.ca
- Public Safety Canada
- Government of Canada cyber reporting resources

**Find Help**

[www.k-12cyberawareon.ca/find-help](http://www.k-12cyberawareon.ca/find-help)



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