New Course Proposal
2026-2027

Education Committee Meeting
February 11, 2026

AP Cybersecurity

Location: Rahway High School

Proposed Start of Course: 2026-2027 School Year

Course Length: Full Year Course

Grade Levels: 10-12

Course Rationale

1. Dual Readiness

- Provides a pathway for students to pursue college credit or advanced standing (through the AP Exam) while simultaneously earning an employer-endorsed credential that validates their skills for immediate workforce entry. It also allows for students to be exposed to AP courses at an earlier grade level.

2.Skill-Based Mastery

- Unlike traditional computer science courses, this course focuses on four critical skills: Analyzing Risk, Mitigating Risk, Detecting Attacks, and Collaborating, which includes working with AI tools.

3. Ethical and Legal Foundation

- Students are trained in the legal and professional norms of the industry, covering essential regulations like the Privacy Act and the Digital Security Standard.

Course Objective

1. Career and College Readiness

- As part of the AP Career Kickstart suite, the course is specifically designed to qualify students for college credit while preparing them with technical skills required for cybersecurity careers.

2. Foundational Digital Security

- It serves as a foundational course within Career and Technical Education (CTE) Digital Technology Pathways, ensuring students can protect sensitive data in an increasingly digital society.

3. Real-World Application

- The course utilizes authentic situations derived from common tasks performed by cybersecurity professionals to bridge the gap between classroom theory and professional practice.

Course Structure and Content

AP Cybersecurity consists of five units taught over the course of the year:

- Unit 1: Introduction to Security
- Unit 2: Securing Spaces
- Unit 3: Securing Networks
- Unit 4: Securing Devices
- Unit 5: Securing Applications and Data

Criteria, Staffing, and Scheduling

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Exploring Computer Science and/or AP Computer Science Principles.
The criteria for this course will consult multiple data points, including:

- Teacher recommendations
- Report card grades
- Spring Star Diagnostic scores
- NJSLA scores

Staffing/Scheduling: No additional staff required. The district already has a certified Computer Science teacher who will be able to teach the *AP Cybersecurity* course.

Next Steps

- **February 2026:** Seek Board of Education approval for new course offerings
- **Spring 2026:** Identify and assign qualified teachers
- **Spring/Summer 2026:** Develop curriculum and align instructional materials
- **Summer 2026:** Professional Development for AP teachers

Thank you!