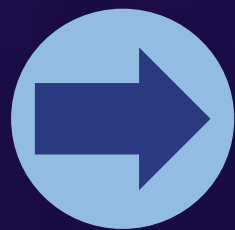




# STATE OF ED TECH: DESIGNING THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

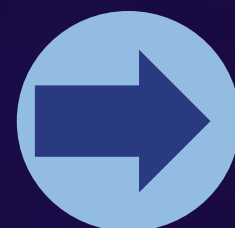
# Who Is CoSN?

CoSN is the premier North American **professional association** for school district CTOs, CIOs, and their teams—**advancing learning through technology.**



## Our Vision

CoSN is a community of visionary technology leaders empowering every learner to achieve their unique potential in a changing world.



## Our Mission

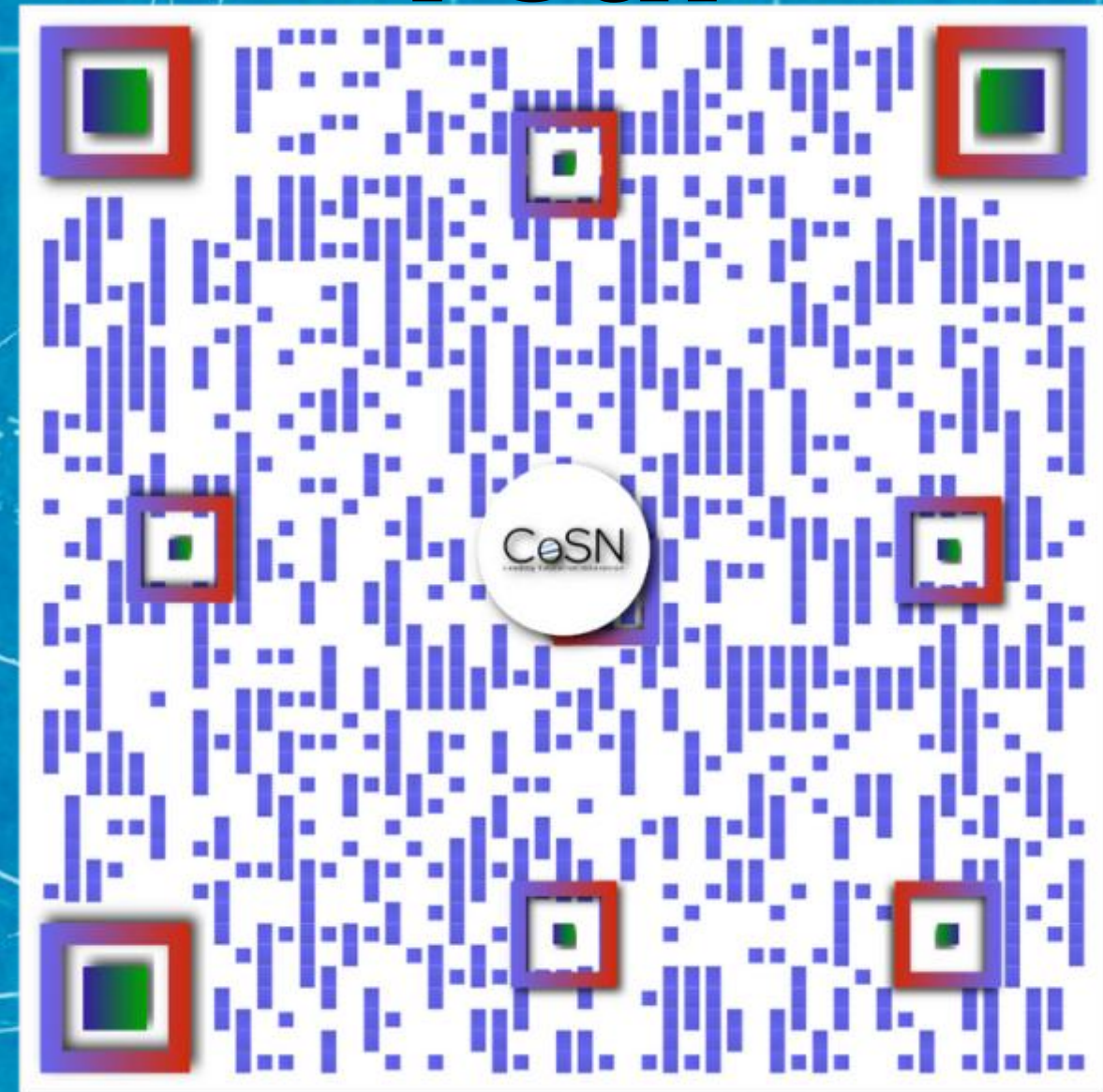
CoSN provides current and aspiring K–12 education technology leaders with the community, knowledge, and professional development they need to create and grow engaging learning environments.

**CoSN**  
Leading Education Innovation

# 2025 State of EdTech District Leadership



# 12th Year







# ANNUAL U.S. SURVEY

## Key 2025 themes:

- ✓ AI
- ✓ Cybersecurity
- ✓ Connectivity

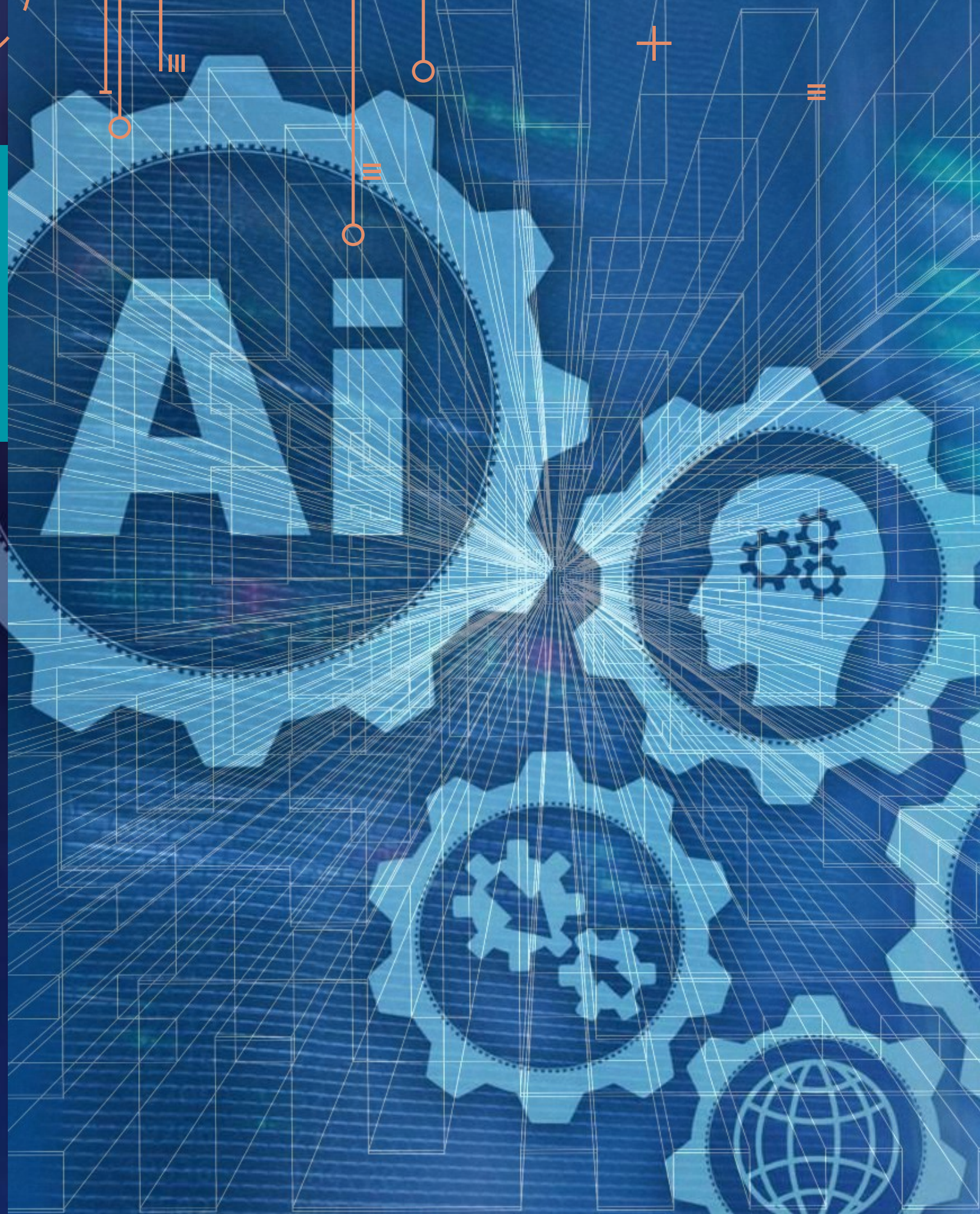
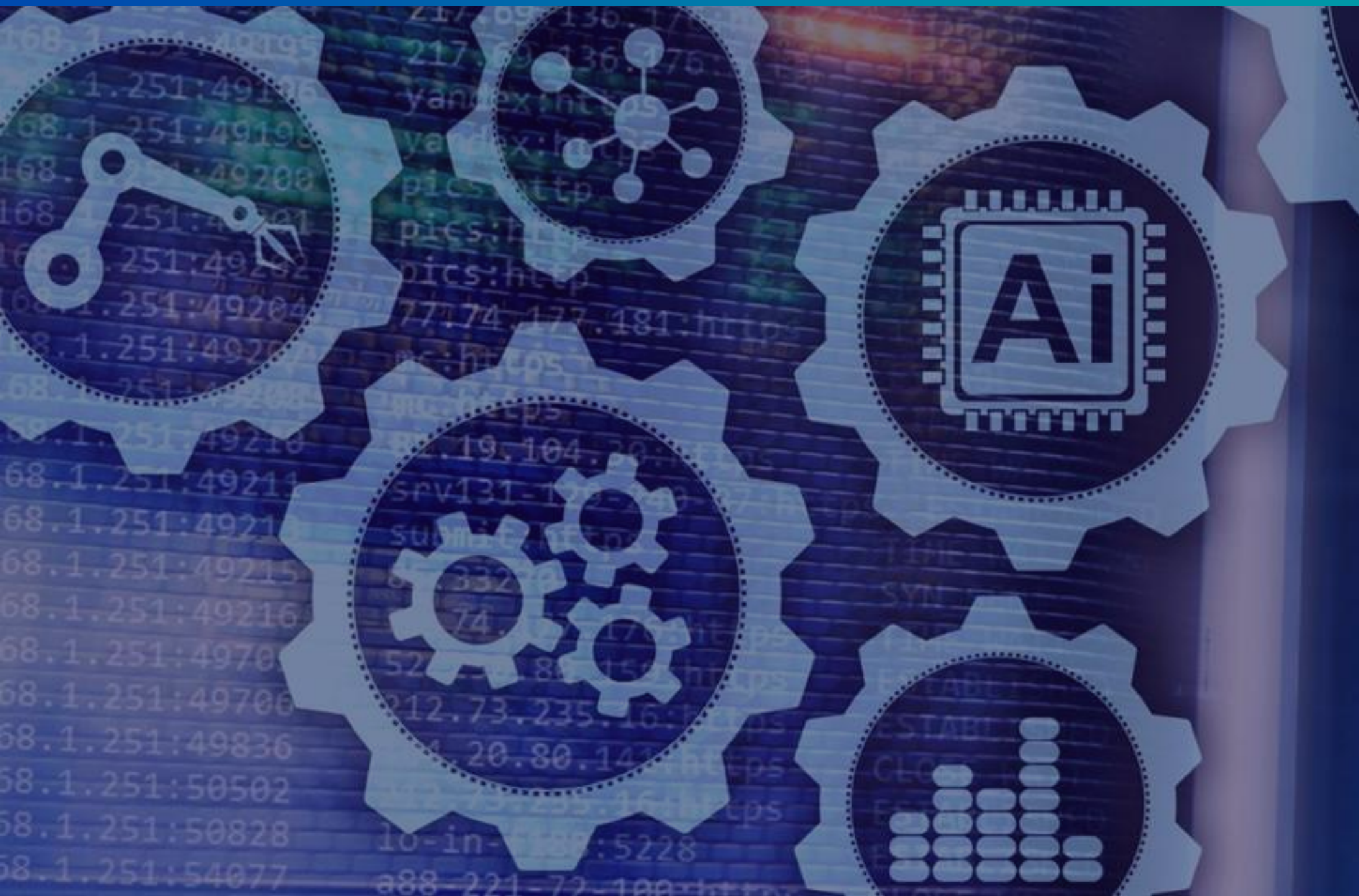
# ANNUAL SURVEY: YEARLY TRENDS

## Things Change: 11-Year Comparison



| Rank in 2024 (out of 26) | Priority Topic                 | Rank in 2013 (out of 16) |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| # 1                      | Cybersecurity                  | # 13                     |
| # 2                      | Data Privacy & Security        | N/A                      |
| # 3                      | Network Infrastructure         | N/A                      |
| # 4                      | Determining AI Strategy        | N/A                      |
| # 5                      | IT Crisis Preparedness         | N/A                      |
| # 23                     | Mobile Learning                | # 1                      |
| N/A                      | BYOD                           | # 2                      |
| # 20                     | Online Assessment Readiness    | # 3                      |
| # 22                     | Broadband Access               | # 4                      |
| # 7                      | Cost Effective/Smart Budgeting | # 5                      |

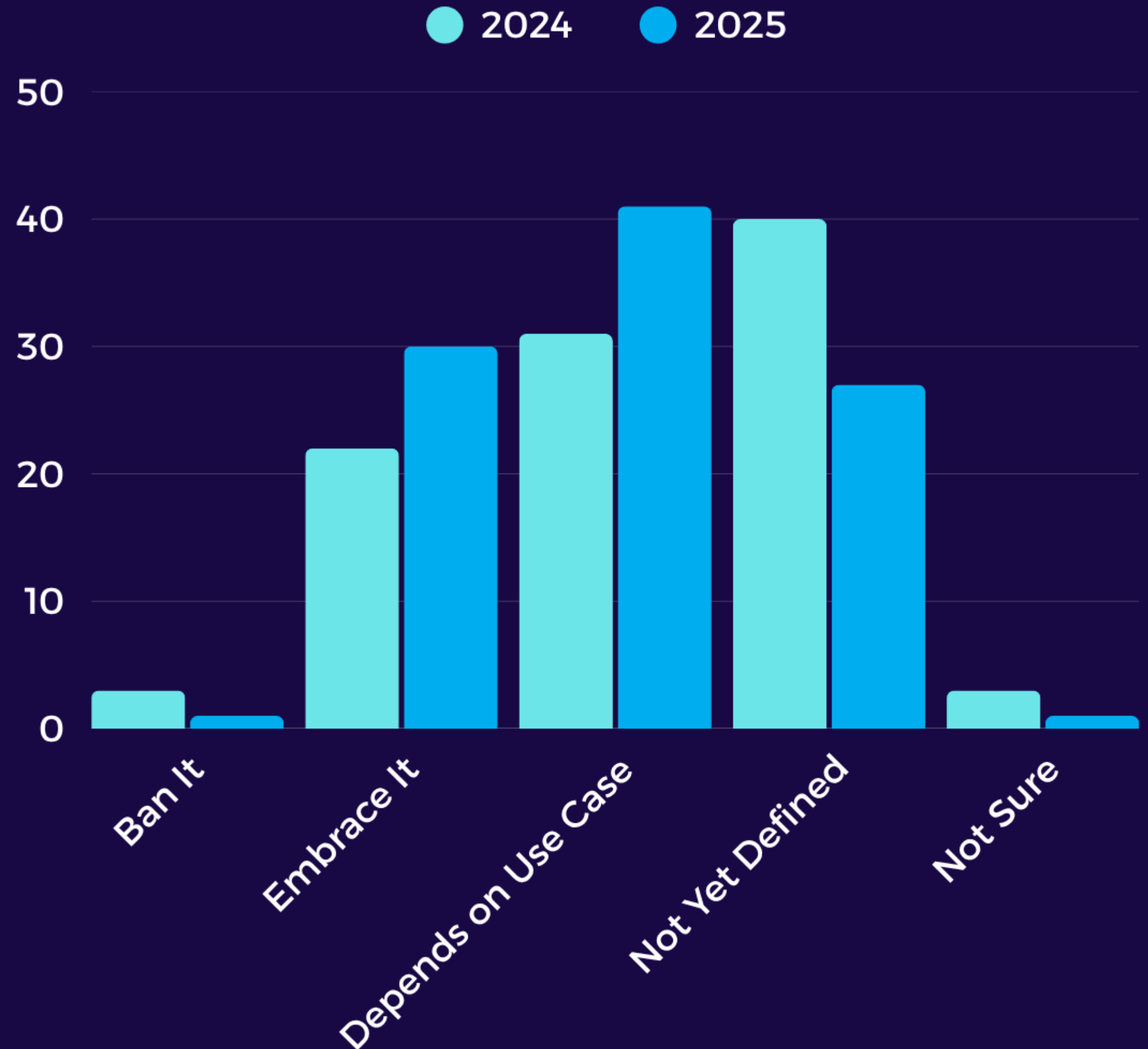
# 1 AI: MOMENTUM AND DIRECTION



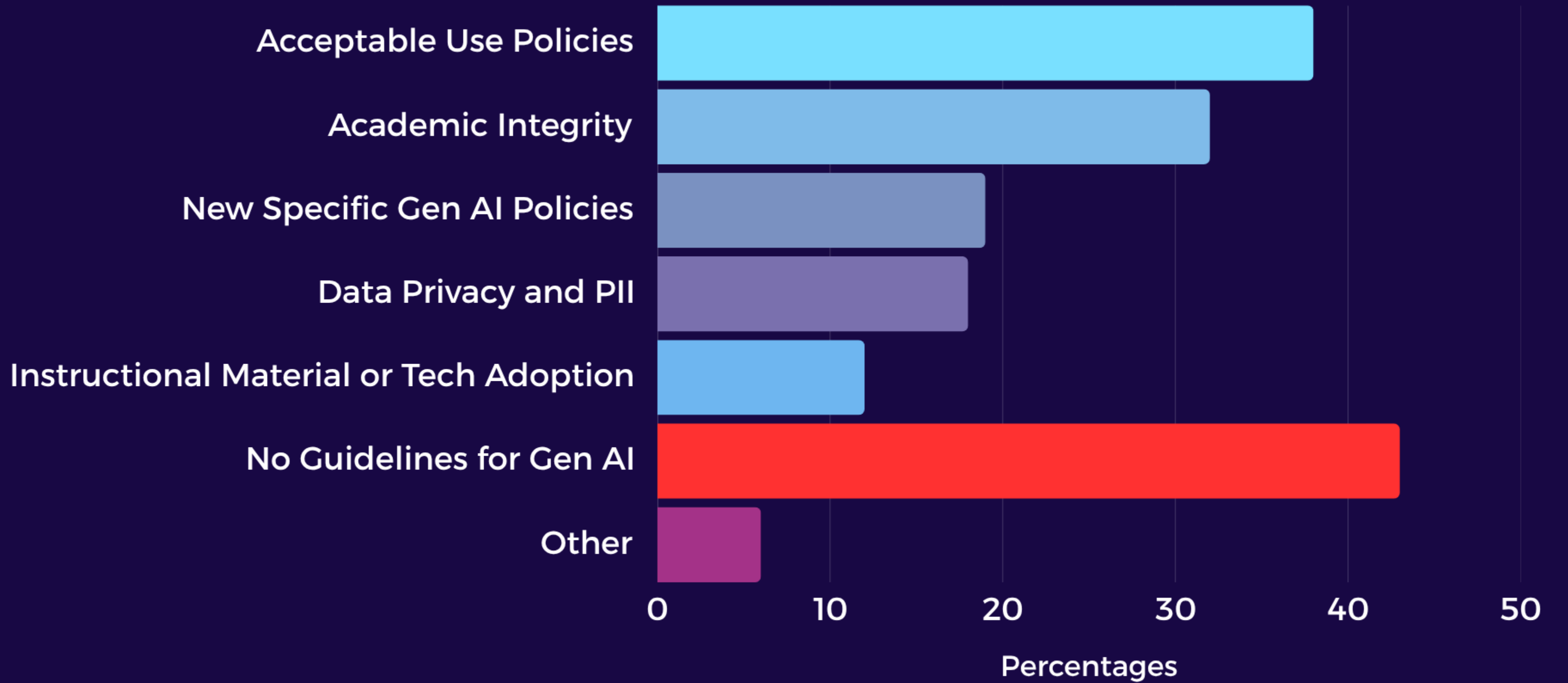
# AI ADOPTION IS ACCELERATING

94% see AI's positive potential

- Drop in undefined AI strategy (40% → 27%)
- Use case-based planning ↑ from 31% to 41%
- Total bans are rare



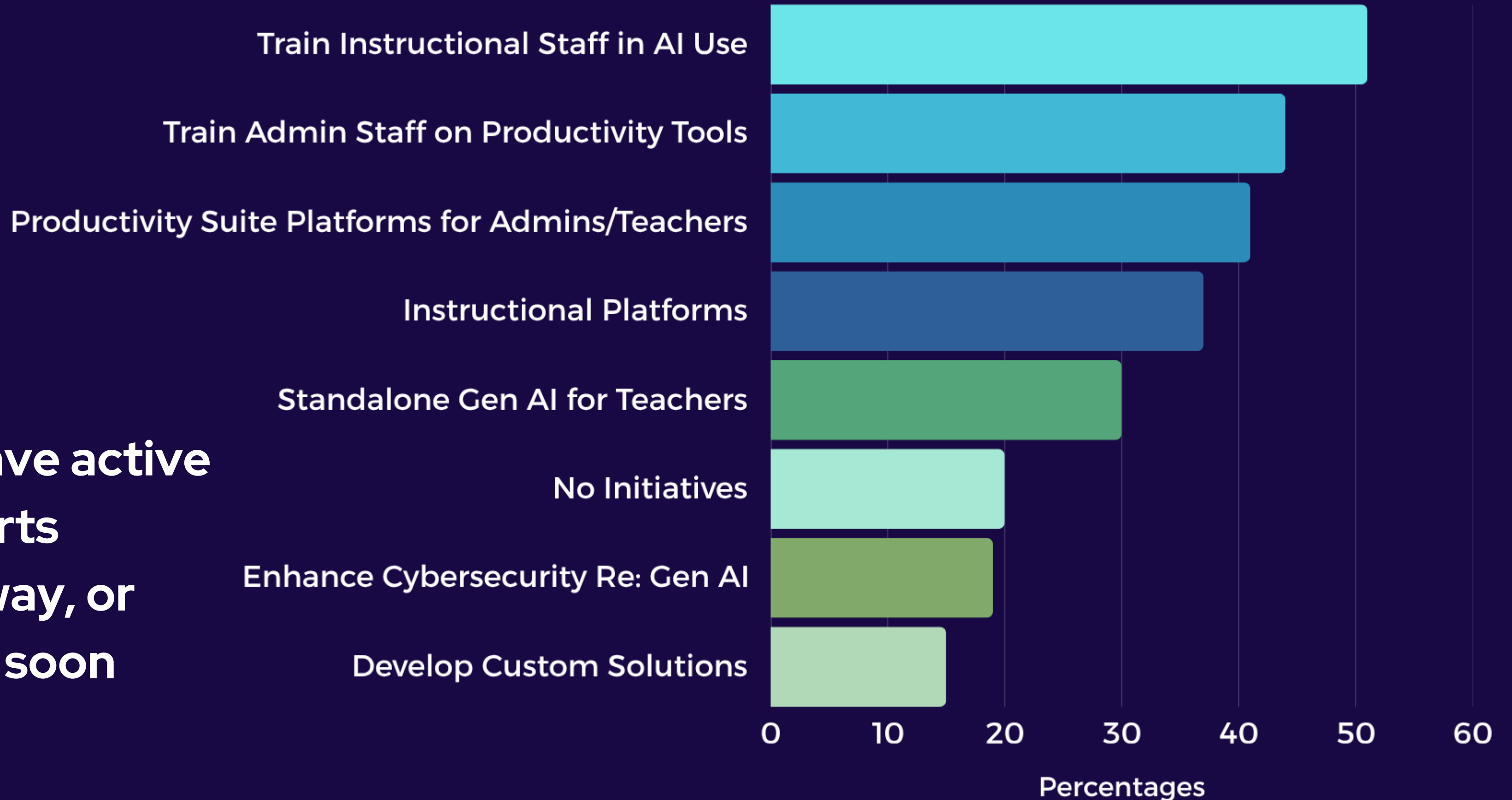
# STATE OF DISTRICT AI POLICY/GUIDANCE



# AI IN ACTION

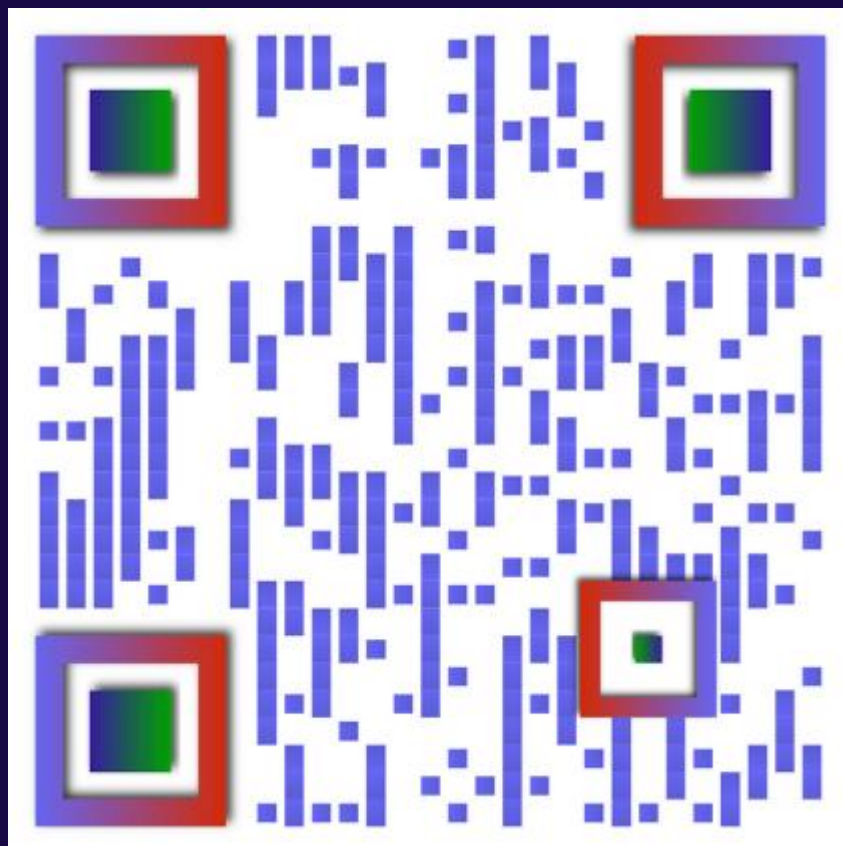
## AI INITIATIVES ARE UNDERWAY

**80% have active  
AI efforts  
underway, or  
plan to soon**



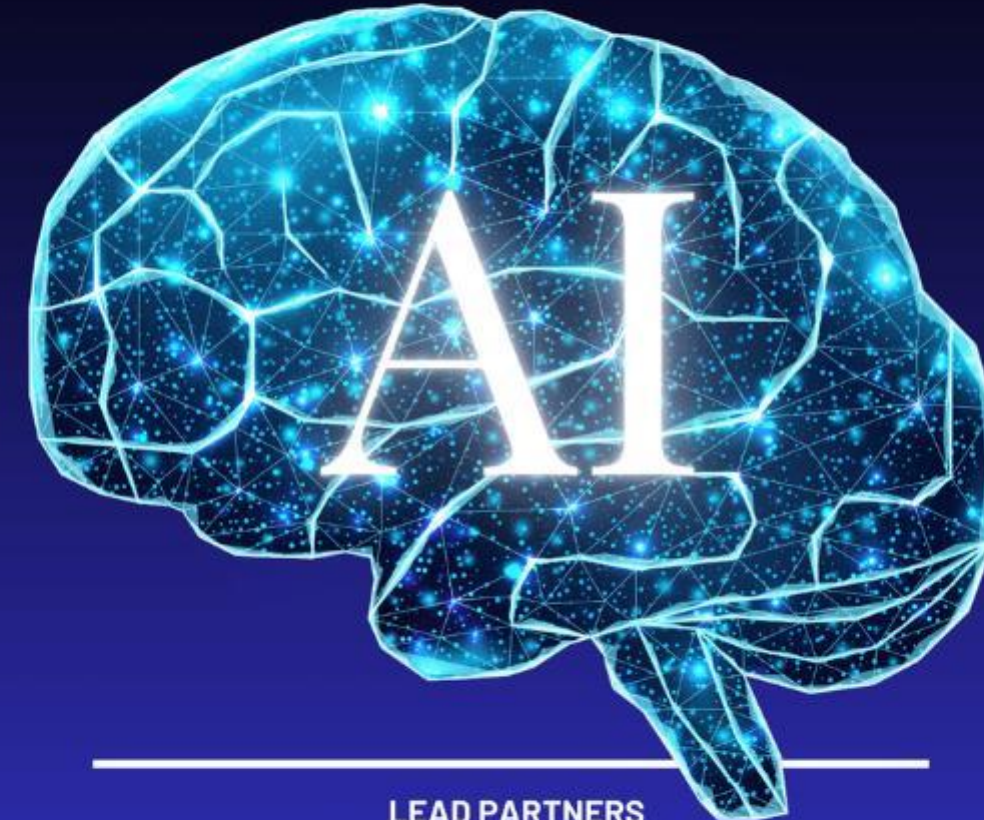
# AI RESOURCES

- [Maturity Tool](#)
- [Generative AI Readiness Checklist](#)
- [AI Guidance for Schools Kit](#)



## K-12 GENERATIVE AI READINESS CHECKLIST

October 2023  
Version 1.1



LEAD PARTNERS



[cosn.org/ai](https://cosn.org/ai)

# 2

# CYBERSECURITY

**“Many of our schools across the nation are, what we call **target rich and cyber poor** in that they are often a frequent target for ransomware and other cyberattacks due to the extensive data kept on school networks, often without the proper protection.”**

**- Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Agency (CISA)**

# WHY IS K-12 A TARGET?

Districts are responsible for protecting vast amounts of confidential student and employee data.

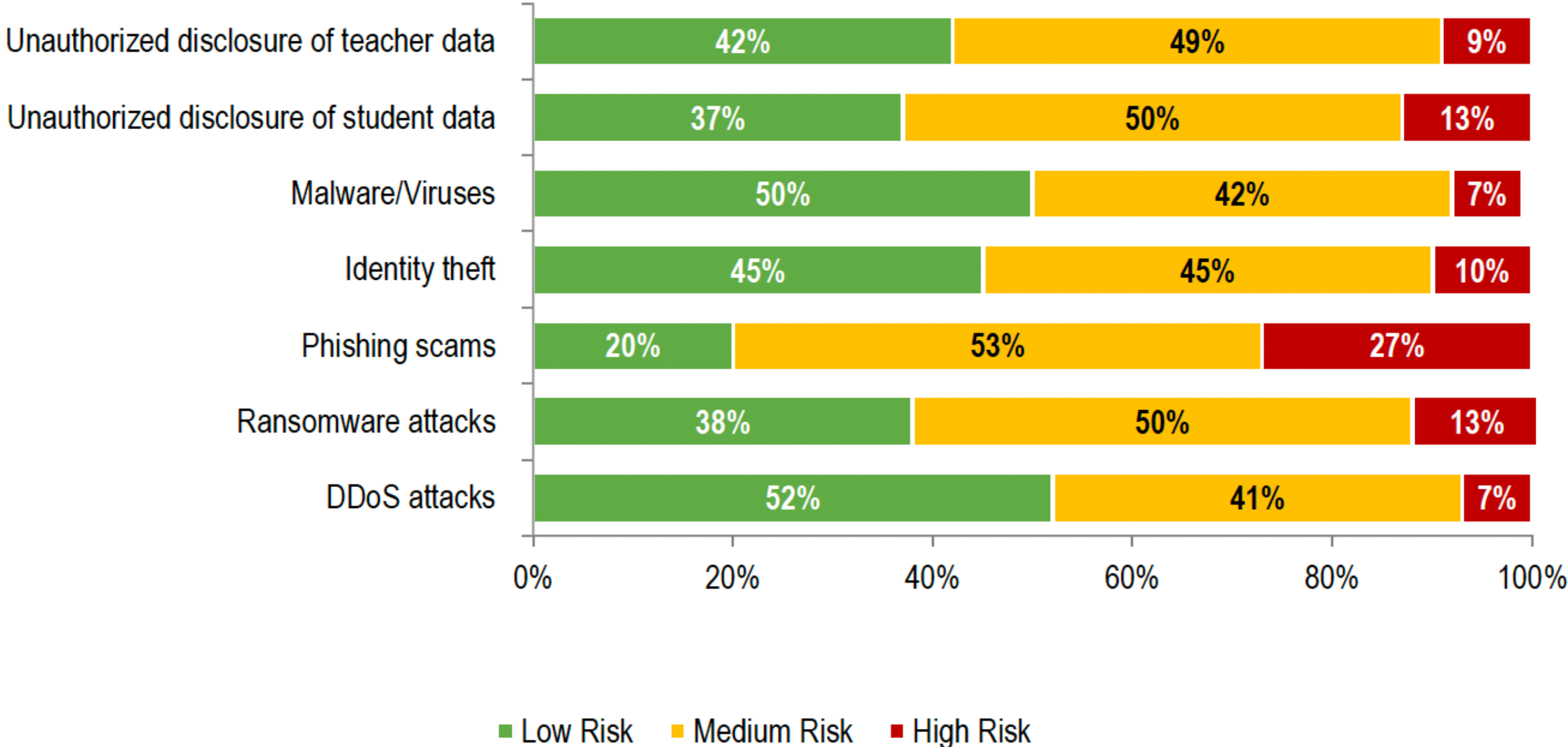
- Opportunity for Payoff
- Large employer (SSN's)
- Student Identities (DOB & SSN's)

Only 1 in 3 school districts have one FTE dedicated to cybersecurity.



# UNDERESTIMATING CYBER RISK

## Perception of Network Security Risks



# IMPACT OF A CYBER BREACH/ATTACK

Source:

[School Safety.gov](https://www.schoolsafety.gov) 2024



**Learning Loss**

**3 days to 3 weeks**

**Recovery**

**2 to 9 months**

**Financial Resources**

**\$50K-\$1,000,000**

# CYBERSECURITY

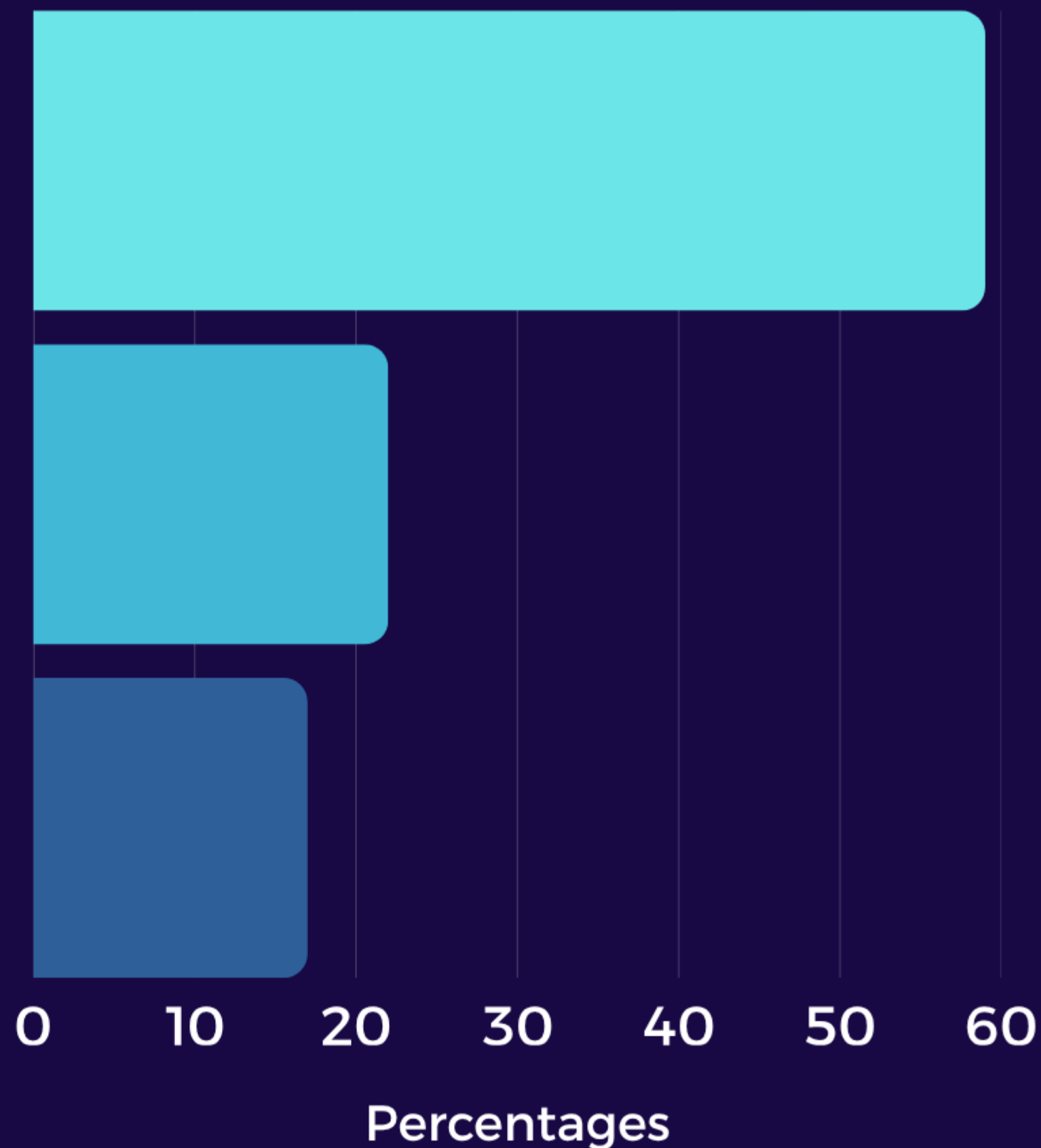
## CYBERSECURITY INSURANCE MARKET IS TIGHTENING

**71% report  
policy  
changes**

Premium Has Increased

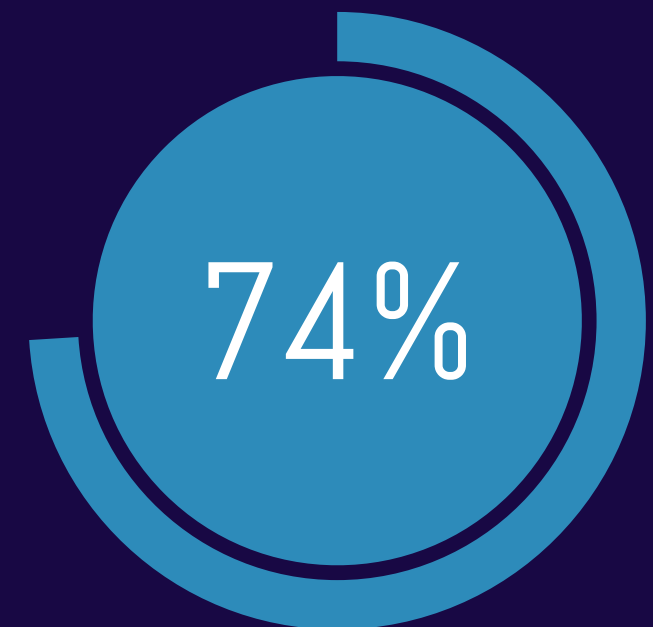
Deductible Has Increased

Fewer Possible Providers

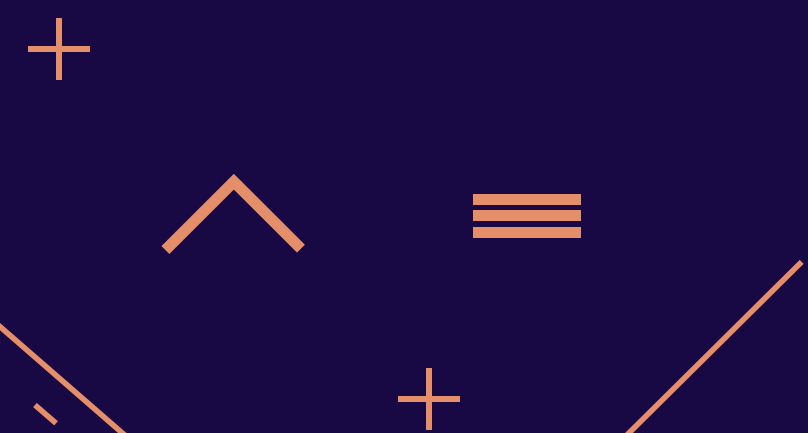


# 3

# DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY: APPROACHING THE CLIFF'S EDGE




**74% say E-Rate  
disruption would  
have a "major or  
catastrophic" impact**



# TIPS FOR DESIGNING THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

- ✔ Invest in cybersecurity and AI talent
- ✔ Align leadership and integration efforts
- ✔ Sustain funding and connectivity (protect E-Rate)





# **TOOLS & RESOURCES**

**Accessibility**

**Cybersecurity**

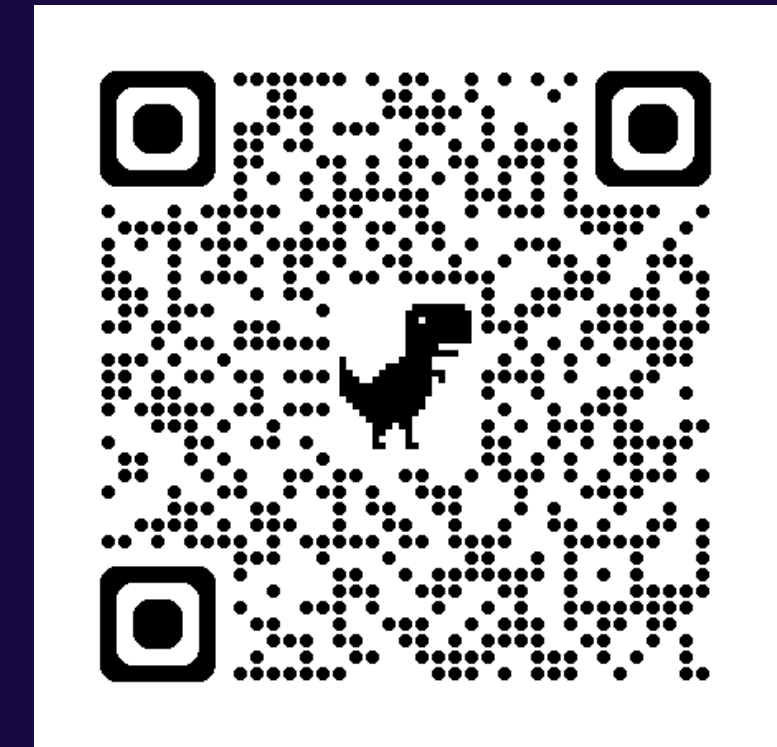
**Artificial  
Intelligence  
(AI)**

# **EDTECH TOPICS**

**Belonging  
& Inclusion**

**EmpowerED  
Superintendents**

**Interoperability**



**K-12  
EdTech  
Innovation**

**Network &  
Systems  
Design**

**Student  
Data  
Privacy**

[cosn.org/edtech-topics](https://cosn.org/edtech-topics)

# DrIVING K12 INNOVATION

## Hurdles

- Attracting & Retaining Educators and IT Professionals
- Evolution of Teaching & Learning
- Digital Equity



## Accelerators

- Learner Agency
- Building the Human Capacity of Leaders
- Changing Attitudes Toward Demonstrating Learning



## Tech Enablers

- Generative Artificial Intelligence
- Analytics & Adaptive Technologies
- Untethered Broadband & Connectivity



- **AI & Accessibility  
in Education**



## 2024 Blaschke Report

Prepared by Fernanda Pérez Perez  
Charles Blaschke Scholarship Fellow



# ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES

[Websites](#)

[Colors](#)

[Wave Tool](#)

[Cosn.org/2024-  
Blaschke](https://cosn.org/2024-Blaschke)





# Disaster preparednESS

Before a disaster strikes, it is incumbent upon school system IT personnel to have emergency operations plans in place to ensure continuity of learning. Resources include a building checklist, self-assessment and more.

[cosn.org/disaster-preparedness](https://cosn.org/disaster-preparedness)

# CoSN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

[cosn.org/cosn-conferences](https://cosn.org/cosn-conferences)

Building What's Next, Together

CoSN 2026



Chicago, IL | April 13-15

Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk



# THANK YOU

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**[cwade@cosn.org](mailto:cwade@cosn.org)**

**CoSN**  
Leading Education Innovation