

# Ransomware attacks on K-12 schools

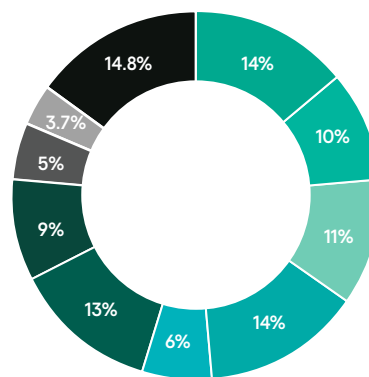


In late October 2021, Kaspersky surveyed 2,000 parents of school age children in the United States to find out how many have experienced ransomware attacks on their schools, how the attacks affected the victims and how the schools responded.

## The Key Findings:

- 9% of parents have experienced ransomware attacks on their children's schools during their kids' time there.
- 71% said the school paid a ransom.
- The most common payments reported by parents were only in the \$5-10K range. Only 3.7% of parents who reported an attack said the school paid more than \$1 million.

## The Ransoms:



- Didn't pay attackers
- Paid, I don't know how much
- Paid up to \$5,000
- Paid \$5,001 - \$10,000
- Paid \$10,001 - \$50,000
- Paid \$50,001 - \$100,000
- Paid \$100,001 - \$500,000
- Paid \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- Paid \$1,000,001 - \$20,000,000
- I don't know if the school district paid the attackers

## Among the respondents who reported attacks:

- 85% of the reported attacks happened from summer 2020-present.
- 3 in 4 said their schools were forced to close for at least 1 day. The average closure was 2.3 days. None closed for more than a week.
- 61% said their child's data was compromised. 14% didn't know whether it was or not.
- 80% of parents were happy with their school's response to the attack. 11% had mixed feelings.
- Parents with a child in middle school reported larger ransom payments (most often in the \$50-100K range), than parents with a child in elementary or high school.
- Parents with a child in a school with 501-1,000 pupils reported the heftiest ransom payments, most often in the \$100K - \$500K range.

[Additional data and safety tips for parents, students and educators are available in this June 2021 survey report.](#)

[Additional resources are available in this digital learning toolkit for educators.](#)

## The Data:

