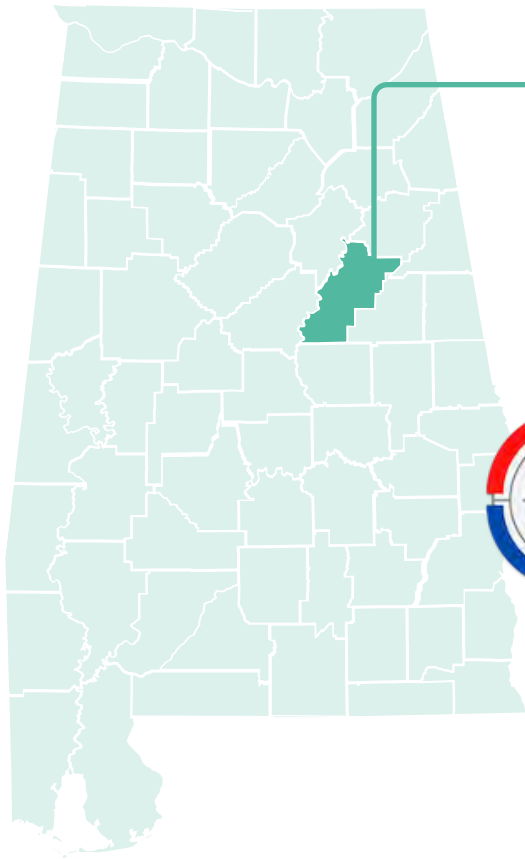


Talladega County School District  
Cybersecurity Snapshot:

# Building Intentional Pathways Partnerships



**7,000 students**  
**79% experiencing**  
**poverty**



## **Talladega County Board of Education**

Talladega County Board of Education (TCBOE) is located in rural East Central Alabama. The district serves approximately 7,000 students with 79% of students experiencing poverty. TCBOE is the fourth largest employer in the region and has a one-to-one device implementation.

## Building a Core Team to Co-Design the Cybersecurity Program

After recruiting a diverse group of members for their core team, including district leaders, principals, teachers, community members, and students, the team created the following goals for their cybersecurity program:

Provide students with real-world **access to professionals in the fields** to generate excitement and understanding of the cybersecurity field.

Build a **culture of inclusiveness and ownership** of the program with a sense of security and support.

**Provide opportunities** for facility tours, job shadowing, and paid internships.

Engage higher rates of **female students and low-income students**.

## Co-Designing Implementation for the Cybersecurity Course

Once the core team was established, TCBOE co-designed an approach to recruitment and implementation of the cybersecurity course to ensure the goals were met. The team completed the following:

Identified three teachers across three high schools to launch the cybersecurity program, **enrolling 81 students across the district**.

**Hosted a launch event** with guest speakers and cybersecurity challenges for students.

Utilized counselors and student-leaders to **recruit diverse groups of students** for the course.



*Students created site-specific cybersecurity logos to represent their programs.*



## Intentional Partner Recruitment

As a leading district in building career opportunities for students, TCBOE leveraged their network of employers and partners to create a program that engages industry and post-secondary leaders. By hosting advisory meetings, supporting guest speakers, and facilitating field trips for teachers and students, the TCBOE team has engaged regional law enforcement, local businesses, and college programs to expose students to different opportunities in the cybersecurity field. Additionally, through a federal grant sponsored by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), TCBOE has placed some students at cybersecurity internships in the summer, allowing them to gain hands-on experience in the field.



## Successes of the Cybersecurity Program

TCBOE’s intentional launch of the Cybersecurity Program and partnership with community partners enabled the students and educators to reach the following milestones:

<p>The CyberPatriot team at Talladega County’s Lincoln High School won <b>Silver</b> in the state competition.</p>	<p><b>Six students</b> are pursuing cybersecurity at the post-secondary level.</p>	<p>Students <b>qualified for Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Cybersecurity Nationals</b> competition.</p>
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## Future of the Program

TCBOE has become a leader in the region by supporting other districts in beginning to implement their own cybersecurity programs. In the upcoming school year, TCBOE aims to complete the following:

<p>Continue building on competition success by <b>supporting students and teachers in participating in more competitions.</b></p>	<p>Match students enrolled in Cybersecurity Course 2 with <b>mentors in the field.</b></p>	<p><b>Provide job-shadowing and internships</b> opportunities for students.</p>	<p>Support students in pursuing <b>CompTIA Security+ certification.</b></p>
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