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**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2016 9:03 AM  
**To:** Haley, Nikki  
**Subject:** VMware expands cloud, security services to schools

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## VMware expands cloud, security services to schools



Schools need cybersecurity services – and software companies are starting to notice. Tim Merrigan, who took over as VP for state, local and education for VMware almost two years ago, told us at the Public Sector Innovation Summit that school districts are contracting with the company for [strengthened network security](#). One recent project is with the New Jersey School Boards Association, which is working with VMware to store school data in the company's cloud. Using VMware's solutions, like Horizon Suite, students and teachers can access class work on a wide range of devices, from computers at school to mobile phones at home. Merrigan said the move helps school leaders to focus on education rather than security.



**Schools could be going over** to the dark side. The Federal Communications Commission is offering schools another

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alternative to wire their networks through dark fiber, where the district leases unused fiber from a provider and then construct their own lines to transport data, running it on their own. Compared to lit fiber, which is what districts like Miami-Dade County Public Schools typically use, dark fiber is often cheaper because of lower monthly costs, [experts told us](#).

**Federal officials encouraged parents to** get their children more involved with STEM [at an earlier age](#) at a White House symposium last week. The event brought together educators, entrepreneurs and government officials to explore how kids can absorb knowledge about science, technology, engineering and math while their brains are still developing. The Education Department also announced a slew of partnerships and initiatives from Nickelodeon, Girl Scouts of the USA and the Jim Henson Company.

**A host of groups that** advocate protecting student data [sent a letter](#) to lawmakers last week urging them to allow states to use existing funds to hire privacy experts. Led by the Data Quality Campaign, the letter pointed out that states now recognize the importance of appointing an official or senior staff member whose sole purpose is to oversee student data privacy. The groups wrote that the funds can come from an existing pot of federal money used for the State Longitudinal Data Systems program.

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*Here's our list of what you should read this week:*

- **Top business leaders, 27 governors, urge Congress to boost computer science education, *Washington Post***
- **Why edtech is a good, but not great, business, *Inside Higher Ed***
- **Hawaii's IT department taps university data center as backup site, *EdTech Magazine***
- **Hastings fights to protect student privacy rights, *Chicago Tribune***
- **The edtech takeover of BCPS, *Baltimore Sun***



EdScoop features the latest news and conversations with top leaders driving technology and digital learning in K-12 and higher education, bringing together influential policy and decision makers at the federal, state & local education levels.

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