

Solving key identity security challenges in education with Silverfort

The education sector is an increasingly lucrative target for ransomware and data breaches. In Q1 2025, attacks surged 69% year-over-year, with global incidents nearly doubling. Most involved ransomware, costing K-12 institutions over \$3.7 million on average, and 71% saw backup systems compromised.

Ransomware attacks use compromised credentials to spread through target environments. Their continued success in this sector highlights critical weaknesses in education organizations' security architecture. Additionally, legacy and homegrown on-prem applications are prevalent but not protected with today's security controls.

Without proper security controls, educational organizations are exposed to significant security challenges, especially against identity-based attacks that utilize compromised credentials.



What makes educational institutions a key target for identity threats?

Authentication to legacy servers

Active Directory authenticates to legacy servers with NTLM and Kerberos which does not support MFA, leaving them open to malicious access with compromised credentials.

Student access across unmanaged devices

Students often access resources on their personal devices which are not subject to centralized control or management. This makes them easy prey for compromise and abuse.

Limited Visibility into non-human-identities

Despite the critical role NHIs play in every environment, they suffer from extremely low visibility, exposing them to compromise and lateral movement.



How Silverfort solves identity security challenges in the education sector

Secure authentication to legacy servers

All user access requests are forwarded to Silverfort via its native integration with Active Directory. This includes authentications made via NTLM and Kerberos, so legacy servers can be protected with MFA.

Free identity zero trust security for students

Silverfort provides complimentary real time protection to all student users throughout the organization while detecting and preventing identity threats such as lateral movement and ransomware spread.

Full NHI visibility and security

Silverfort automatically identifies all NHI within the environment and offers the identity and security teams the tools to secure them based on each account's behavior.

Learn more about how Silverfort helps educational institutions solve their key identity security challenges.

[Download the full eBook](#)