

The WHAT

The Towson University Center for STEM Excellence in partnership with the TU Cyber Center is excited to announce the 2025-2026 **B'More Secure GenCyber Professional Learning Program**. This year-long professional learning opportunity for middle and high school educators in Maryland will build teacher capacity to integrate cybersecurity concepts into their courses and engage students in learning about careers and post-secondary opportunities in cyber security. The program is primarily designed for teachers with little to no cybersecurity content knowledge.



All participants will gain an understanding and develop foundational skills in core cybersecurity concepts related to digital citizenship, software security, cryptography and network security, and system security. We will also focus on social justice issues with respect to cybersecurity and consider the impact of having a diverse cyber workforce. Participants will learn more about the variety of cyber careers available to their students and will engage in a Classroom Implementation Project that will give them an opportunity to design cyber-related lessons in their subject area. Support will be provided to participants throughout the 2025-2026 school year as they infuse what they learned during the workshop into their teaching.

The HOW

The B'More Secure GenCyber project is built around a 5-day teacher 'summer camp' held on the campus of Towson University June 23 - June 27, 2025. Each day of the camp is designed around a cybersecurity concept. Camp facilitators will include a mix of university faculty, graduate students and K-12 pedagogical experts. Participants will have the option of staying on campus (free) or commuting daily and meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) will be provided to both residents and commuters. Optional evening activities will include networking with colleagues, cybersecurity themed games and workshops.

During the summer camp participants will begin working on their Classroom Implementation Project, creating two cybersecurity lessons they will use in their own classrooms. The following



school year, participants will attend virtual webinars, implement cybersecurity lessons in their classrooms and receive support from colleagues, K-12 pedagogical experts as well as content experts. The year-long program will culminate in an in-person B’More Secure GenCyber Conference in Spring 2026 where participants will meet, network and share the results of their Classroom Implementation Projects.

Participants will leave the program with increased knowledge and confidence about cybersecurity concepts, as well as ideas and ways to continue to engage their students in learning about cybersecurity and exploring career and post-secondary opportunities in the field.

B’More Secure GenCyber Professional Learning Community		
Pre-Work (~10 hours)	Summer Camp (~40 hours)	School Year (~15 hours)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Kick-off Webinar (online/sync, 1 hour) ★ B’More Secure GenCyber Conference (in-person Saturday in May, 5 hours) ★ Community-building and orientation pre-work (online/async, 4 hours) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ GenCyber Concepts (novice & advanced tracks) ★ Cybersecurity pedagogical content knowledge ★ Cybersecurity Career Connections ★ Cybersecurity Curricular Connections ★ Cybersecurity Connections to Local Contexts ★ Lesson plan development ★ Evening community building, games & workshops ★ 1x1 support from content & K-12 pedagogical experts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Finalize Lesson Design Project (6+ hours) ★ 1x1 support from content and K-12 pedagogical experts (as needed) ★ Implement cybersecurity lessons (varies) ★ GenCyber Concepts Virtual Seminars (4 hours) ★ Access to undergraduate classroom mentors ★ Access to classroom equipment (Sphero Bolts, micro:bits) through HiTech Loaner Lab program ★ Attend and present at culminating B’More Secure GenCyber Conference (5 hours)

The WHEN and WHERE

The B’More Secure GenCyber schedule is listed below. Attendance at all events is mandatory.

- ★ **Kick-Off Webinar** (virtual)
 - Wednesday, April 15 2026 from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm (Webinar on Zoom)
 - Overview and program logistics provided, asynchronous pre-work assigned
- ★ **B’More Secure GenCyber Conference** (in-person)
 - Saturday, May 3 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the TU Center for STEM Excellence (701 E. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21202).
- ★ **Summer Camp** (in-person)
 - June 23 -June 27, 2025, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm (6:00 pm -7:30 pm optional evening activities) at TU main campus (10 West Burke Ave, Towson, MD, 21252).
 - Participants will engage in hands-on learning on various cybersecurity topics

- ★ **2025-2026 School Year Events** (virtual)
 - Complete GenCyber Classroom Implementation Project
 - Attend at least four B'More Secure Virtual Seminars (weekday evenings)
- ★ **B'More Secure GenCyber Spring Conference** (in-person)
 - Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 10 am - 3 pm) in-person at the Towson University Center for STEM Excellence (701 E. Pratt St, Baltimore, MD 21202).
 - Share results of Classroom Implementation Project & network with colleagues.

The WHY

Teachers who successfully complete the B'More Secure GenCyber program will receive a \$1,200 stipend (must be U.S. citizen or permanent resident), a new computer (which is theirs to keep), and (3) CPD credits. In addition, program participants will be members of an active learning community with access to peers engaged in cybersecurity teaching, TU faculty cybersecurity content experts, K-12 pedagogy coaches, near-peer classroom mentors for their students, support for cybersecurity certifications and access to hands-on cybersecurity equipment loaner kits for classroom use.

The WHO

Any secondary teacher in Maryland with an interest in learning more about teaching cybersecurity and a willingness to design and incorporate cybersecurity into at least two lessons during the 2025-2026 school year are welcome. Teachers from any subject area are invited to apply and participants do not need any prior experience or knowledge in cybersecurity. We are particularly interested in increasing interest in cybersecurity in students traditionally underrepresented in cyber careers and fields of study (i.e. African American, Hispanic) and strongly encourage educators who work with these populations of students to apply.

Applications

Applications available [here](#). Applicant's will need to request their principal's fill out a Principal Support Form and are responsible for forwarding this link to their principal: <https://forms.gle/wudMntJLtS6GixnA9>. Early-bird deadline for applying is March 5 and early-bird applicants will be notified of acceptance no later than April 3, 2025.

Frequently Asked Questions

I'm a middle or high school teacher and I don't yet know anything about cybersecurity. Can I apply? YES! Our program is designed for

participants who know nothing (or very little) about cybersecurity. The B'More Secure GenCyber program will introduce you to the fundamentals of cybersecurity and provide opportunities for you to find connections between cyber and the subjects/courses you currently teach. Please email GenCyber@towson.edu if you have questions about the curriculum.



I already teach cybersecurity. Will I learn

anything new in this program? Our program is primarily designed for participants who have little to no experience in cyber. If you're already very familiar with teaching cybersecurity, this program may not meet your needs. That said, our focus on pedagogy, social justice issues and career connections means those who already teach about cyber may still benefit from the opportunity to work with other teachers, learn from cyber experts and share ideas about teaching cybersecurity. If you're unsure if this is the right opportunity for you, please email GenCyber@towson.edu to make an appointment to talk with one of the program instructors.

I don't live in Maryland. Can I still apply? We are only able to accept educators who teach in Maryland schools. If you live outside of Maryland, but you teach in a Maryland school you are eligible.

I want to apply, but I'm not sure about the residential aspect of the Summer Camp. Do I have to stay on campus to be part of the program? The Summer Camp is an intensive course designed to immerse participants in all things cyber for five full days with networking opportunities, games and workshops available during evening hours. Because of the immersive nature of the program, we are providing the option for all participants to stay on campus (at no cost) for the duration of the Summer Camp. However, participants are welcome to commute each day.

Will I have to pay for room and board on TU's campus during the Summer Camp? No. TU will cover all the costs of your housing. All participants (commuters and residents) will also receive free breakfast, lunch and dinner.



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I'm worried that I will not get enough downtime during the intensive summer camp, especially if I'm staying in a dorm with other participants. Will there be opportunities for participants to relax and take some time to themselves? Absolutely! While the Summer Camp will be an intensive learning experience with long days, participants will be provided with breaks and time to themselves. Additionally, each residential participant will be assigned their own room with their own bathroom.

What if I can only attend some of the required sessions. Can I still participate? All participants must attend all required sessions. This includes the Kick-Off meeting (virtual), two Saturday Fall B'More Secure Gencyber Conferences (in-person, May 2025 and 2026) and five days of in-person summer 2025 camp. Participants will also need to attend (virtually) at least four GenCyber Webinars throughout the 2025-2026 school year. If you're not able to commit to attending all sessions you will not be able to participate in the program.

I don't teach a cybersecurity course. Can I still apply? Yes! In fact, you're our target audience! We're looking for teachers from all subjects with a willingness to learn about cybersecurity. As part of the program, you will be developing and implementing two cybersecurity lessons with your students. Since you will be designing the lessons, you can make them fit into your existing course curriculum.

I don't serve student populations who are underrepresented in cyber fields and careers (e.g. African American and Hispanic students). Can I still participate? Yes. All participating teachers must commit to highlighting the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion in cyber fields and careers. While we are particularly interested in increasing interest in cybersecurity in students traditionally underrepresented in cyber careers and fields of study (i.e. African American, Hispanic) and strongly encourage educators who work with these populations of students to apply, applications will be considered from teachers who serve any Maryland student population.

I'm unsure if this is the right opportunity for me. How can I find out more about the program to determine if it is a good fit for my professional learning goals? Reach out to Dr. Mary Stapleton at GenCyber@towson.edu. She can answer any questions and put in touch with cyber faculty who can provide more details on the curriculum and learning goals of the program.

How might COVID-19 affect the B'More Secure Gencyber program? We will follow all state and local guidelines with respect to Covid safety and will update participants to any changes in programming as a result of Covid-related guidelines.

I have a question that wasn't addressed in this document. Is there a real human being I can reach out to? Yes! Email Dr. Mary Stapleton at gencyber@towson.edu with your questions.