Needed: Cyber Security Experts

Cyber Security is a fast-growing field with high paying jobs critical to the economy. Students look to parents for career guidance. Yet many parents are not prepared.

A survey of middle and high school students' parents shows most need assistance from trusted experts if today's youth are going to take advantage of the emerging opportunities awaiting them.

Jobs in Demand

- **18%** Expected 2014-24 growth in Cyber Security jobs
- **$90K** Median pay of Cyber Security experts

Students Aspiring to IT Careers: Who Influences Choice?

- **22%** Parents
- **17%** Mother

Parents and Kids Talk Careers – But Not Cyber Security Careers

- **30%** General Career Possibilities
- **67%** IT/Computer Careers
- **12%** Cyber Security Careers

Only 3 in 10 Parents Are Aware of Cyber Security Job Requirements

Parents Want Help!

Few parents know what Cyber Security careers require. Even fewer are highly confident of those requirements. Parents could encourage children to go online to explore newly emerging fields. However, will they? Parents responding to the survey feel they have more to learn about keeping children safe online.

Indeed, 2 out of 3 parents would want help from trusted experts and organizations to keep their child safe in the digital online world.

Parents Highly Confident they Know Requirements to Succeed in Cyber Security

- **16%**
- **30%** Not Sure
- **53%** No

Methodology: The online survey was fielded during Q2 and Q3 2016. A national convenience sample of 710 parents of middle and high school students responded.

[2] Statistics come from the survey of Health Science and CTE students surveyed by ERCA during the 2015-2016 academic year.
[3] Virtually every parent responding reports talking (always, often, or sometimes) with their child about career possibilities. Most even talk (always, often, or sometimes) about IT/computer coding careers. But few say "yes" when asked, "Has you child ever spoken with you about Cyber Security careers?"
[4] This project was a collaboration of the following organizations: National Cyber Security Alliance, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, National Girls Collaborative Project, National PTA, and Student Research Foundation.