The State of Compliance in Higher Education: What the 2026 Data Reveals

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BEYOND THE REPORT

The pressures facing higher education

A changing threat environment adds urgency to already complex compliance requirements.

45

Higher-ed ransomware attacks in Q3 2026 alone

Up 88% from 24 attacks the prior quarter, the fastest-growing target segment in education

Source: Comparitech, Education Ransomware Roundup, Q3 2026

164,041

People confirmed affected in a single Feb. 2026 breach

One of the largest higher-ed data breaches disclosed so far in 2026

Source: Comparitech breach tracking, 2026

Title IV

Funding eligibility is now on the line, not just a fine

GLBA Safeguards Rule non-compliance can jeopardize a school's federal financial aid participation

Source: FTC GLBA Safeguards Rule (16 CFR Part 314)

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THE CONVERSATION

From report insights to real-world experience

1. The survey found that 67% rely on spreadsheets. Does that match what CampusGuard sees?
2. What should a school prioritize during its first 90 days of establishing a GRC program?
3. Operationally, what changes in year one, and what takes longer?
4. What goes into establishing a timeline for compliance ? Is there an underestimation of effort?
5. What's the one habit that moves a school from "scrambling" to "always audit-ready"?

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CLOSING

Where to start and how to keep progress moving

1. Assign clear ownership across departments
2. Address urgent gaps within a phased roadmap
3. Reuse common controls and evidence
4. Reduce manual work where it slows your team most
5. Give leadership a consistent view of progress
6. Keep evidence current between audits

Start with your highest-priority gaps and a clear plan for what comes next.

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- Security Questionnaire Automation
- Assessment Completion Agent
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Explore the findings. Plan your next step.

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