MFA 2026 Snapshot: Progress Amid Persistent Challenges

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) is now widely used across K-12 schools, but adoption alone doesn't tell the full story. While most school organizations have implemented MFA for staff, uneven rollout, workflow friction, and misaligned policies continue to create gaps. In many cases, these challenges lead to insecure workarounds that weaken the very protections MFA is meant to provide.

Rapid adoption of MFA for adults

MFA in schools: 84% (up from 77% in 2023)

IT Staff: 97%

Teaching Staff: 93% (Up from 80%)

Non-Teaching Staff: 89% (up from 75%)

Student adoption remains low

While student identity theft is a top concern for **54% of IT Leaders,** student MFA adoption is only **13%** (Up from 10% in 2023).

Top roadblocks to implement MFA

#1: Resistance. 59% report teachers and staff find MFA frustrating.

#2: Tech Hurdles. 49% report logistical or technical issues.

#3: Help Desk. 44% report increased help desk burdens.

#4: Policy Clash. 23% say phone bans make MFA harder to use.

Common security workarounds persist

62% writing down passwords.

57% reusing passwords across sites.

55% sharing their credentials with others.

48% using personal devices to bypass IT rules.

Clever

See full report: Clever.com/cybersecure-report

**Based on Clever's Q4 2025 survey of over 500 U.S. K-12 leaders who identify as administrators and IT professionals*