

2026 Chronology Dean Dorton Cybersecurity Advisory Services

The Division of Information and Instructional Technology (DIIT) seeks approval to continue cybersecurity advisory services with Dean Dorton to support the district's ongoing efforts to strengthen cybersecurity governance, risk management, compliance, and incident preparedness. These services provide strategic leadership and expert guidance to help protect DeKalb County School District's digital infrastructure, sensitive data, and technology resources.

As the district continues to expand its reliance on technology to support teaching, learning, and business operations, cybersecurity threats have become increasingly sophisticated and persistent. School districts across the nation continue to experience ransomware attacks, phishing campaigns, account compromise attempts, and data breaches that can disrupt operations and place sensitive information at risk. To address these challenges, DCSD requires ongoing cybersecurity leadership and strategic oversight to ensure risks are identified, assessed, and mitigated in a proactive manner.

Dean Dorton will provide Virtual Chief Information Security Officer (vCISO) services and cybersecurity consulting support aligned with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework. This framework is built around five core functions: Identify, Protect, Detect, Respond, and Recover. By aligning cybersecurity initiatives with the NIST framework, the district can continue to mature its security program through a structured and risk-based approach.

Dean Dorton will assign a senior cybersecurity consultant, supported by a team of cybersecurity professionals, to assist district leadership in advancing cybersecurity initiatives and strengthening the district's overall security posture. Services will be aligned with district priorities and the DCSD cybersecurity roadmap.

Dean Dorton Cybersecurity Advisory & Monitoring Services (Cost- \$250,200)

Dean Dorton will assign a senior cybersecurity consultant, supported by a team of cybersecurity professionals, to assist district leadership in advancing cybersecurity initiatives and strengthening the district's overall security posture.

Key Services Include:

- Cybersecurity strategy, governance, and compliance consulting
- Executive-level cybersecurity reporting and risk management guidance
- Incident response planning, coordination, and oversight
- Internal and external audit support
- Security awareness program oversight and strategic direction
- Annual security risk assessments to evaluate cybersecurity controls and identify opportunities for improvement
- Attack Surface Monitoring (ASM) to identify exposed systems, vulnerabilities, and emerging threats
- Continuous monitoring of publicly exposed digital assets, software components, and known vulnerabilities
- Recommendations and mitigation strategies to reduce cybersecurity risk and improve overall security maturity

Dean Dorton Cybersecurity Assessment Services (Cost- \$81,000)

Dean Dorton will perform comprehensive cybersecurity testing and assessment activities designed to validate security controls, identify vulnerabilities, and evaluate the district's ability to detect and respond to cyber threats.

Key Services Include:

- External Security Assessment
- Internal Security Assessment
- Google Workspace Security Review
- Attack Simulation Exercise
- Web API Discovery and Risk Assessment

Dean Dorton provides specialized expertise that supplements district staff resources and supports the ongoing development of a mature cybersecurity program. These services help ensure that DCSD remains proactive in identifying risks, strengthening security controls, and protecting critical systems and information.

Procurement:

According to Board of Education Policy DJE II.B., the term “professional services” means services that require:

1. A degree in a particular professional field;
2. A license from a state oversight board or similar authority; or
3. The exercise of specialized skill, knowledge, creativity, or technical abilities.

Pursuant to Board Policy DJE Sections II.B and III.C.4, Dean Dorton's cybersecurity advisory and assessment services qualify as professional services due to the specialized technical expertise and professional judgment required to perform the work.

Financial Impact:

Year	Cost
2025-26	\$250,200
2026-27	\$331,200 amount requested

*The increase from 2026 to 2027 reflects the addition of comprehensive cybersecurity assessment and testing services, including external and internal security assessments, attack simulation exercises, cloud security reviews, and API risk assessments. The district is maintaining all existing vCISO and cybersecurity advisory services while adding proactive testing designed to identify and address vulnerabilities before they impact operations.