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Soaring to Excellence

Patricia M. Parenteau, MS, CAGS
Superintendent of Schools

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Jennifer L. Crawford, Ed.D.
Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Mary A. Henry, BS
Business Manager

January 25, 2021

Office of the Attorney General
Consumer Protection and Antitrust Bureau
33 Capital Street
Concord, NH 03301

RECEIVED

MAR 30 2021

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Re: Information Security Breach Notification

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to notify your office that the Hillsboro-Deering School District had a data breach event involving a laptop in one of our school buildings. The laptop in question has gone missing, and all attempts to locate the device have failed. The laptop in question contained the encrypted personal information of 12 students. The decryption key was stored on a USB drive in the computer at the time of its disappearance.

Nature of the security breach:

On Monday, November 30, 2020, at 0757, an employee reported that their laptop was missing to the Hillsboro-Deering Information Technology department.

The laptop was password protected and encrypted; however, the USB device containing the decryption key was left in the computer at the time of its disappearance. The information contained on the laptop includes student name, grade, teacher name, school year, and assessment of accommodations needed.

Number of New Hampshire residents affected:

A total of 13 New Hampshire residents had personal information that may have been exposed due to this incident. All impacted individuals have been notified via US mail pursuant to NH RSA 359-C:20, notifying them of the incident. Those notices were mailed between January 26 and February 2, 2021. A copy of the notification is included with the notification.

Mitigating Controls:

Upon notification of this event, the Office of Information Technology began the hard drive encryption processes without the need for an external key. The development of policy to clarify employee responsibility to secure equipment entrusted to them by the school district. We currently have no evidence that any of the personal information contained on the laptop has been either accessed or misused. The device's disappearance was reported to local law enforcement on December 2, 2020, at 1330.

Contact Information:

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Neal Richardson
Director of Technology - CISO
Hillsboro-Deering School District
78 School St
Hillsboro, NH 03244

Enclosure:

Cc: Commissioner of Education State of New Hampshire
Chief Information Security Office State of New Hampshire

January 29, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Re: Breach Notification

I am writing to inform you of a data breach incident that may have resulted in the potential compromise of some of your student's personal information. The potentially compromised information contains student name, grade, teacher name, school year, and assessment of accommodations needed.

A laptop belonging to an employee of the Hillsboro-Deering school district was reported missing from their classroom on November 30, 2020. The data was encrypted; however, the decryption key was in the laptop at the time of disappearance.

We want to apologize to you and help alleviate any concerns that you may have regarding this incident. Maintaining your child's privacy is one of our highest priorities. We have taken steps to address and correct this situation and to prevent it from happening again.

We apologize again for any inconvenience or concern that this incident has caused you and your student. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by phone at 603-464-1134 or email jorourke@hdsd.org

Sincerely,

Jim O'Rourke

Principal

Hillsboro-Deering High School