



Salem School District

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CONSUMER PROTECTION

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Superintendent

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Assistant Superintendent
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February 28, 2019

Attorney General Gordon MacDonald
Office of the Attorney General
33 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Salem School District Incident Notification

Dear Attorney General MacDonald:

After consulting with school district counsel it's still unclear if the Salem School District is required to notify your office in accordance with RSA 359-C:19, Notice of Security Breach, but we feel it's appropriate to err on the side of caution. Other than user email addresses and passwords, no personally identifiable information was compromised.

One week ago we learned that a school district administrator received an email threatening to release harmful information if payment wasn't made. Unless the administrator paid \$968 through Bitcoin, the purportedly harmful information would be sent to the administrator's contacts. The administrator notified our IT Director who received similar notices from several other staff members. Our IT Director launched an investigation.

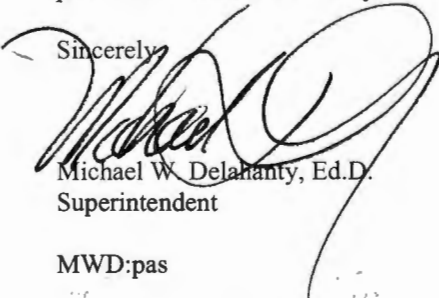
The investigation revealed that the threatening email originated outside the United States. The Director notified our SPAM filter service provider and was told that the spammer was using a technique that worked around our filter system. A technical adjustment was made, and our system is now protecting against such messages.

Our IT Director and the system administrator reviewed more than 140,000 log entries and discovered that seventy-two accounts may have been part of a block of email addresses and passwords compromised in 2013. Many accounts were inactive. No personal data, other than user names and passwords, appear to be compromised.

Our IT staff will notify these account holders that their passwords were available on the web and accessible to individuals with untoward purposes. They will strongly recommend that individuals change their email passwords.

We're committed to safeguarding personal information of our employees, and we have taken several steps to protect it. We will continually evaluate our strategies and resources to protect against future such problems.

Sincerely,


Michael W. Delahanty, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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