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APR 19 2021

CONSUMER PROTECTION



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COUGHLIN<sub>LLC</sub>  
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426 W. Lancaster Avenue, Suite 200  
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April 12, 2021

**VIA U.S. MAIL**

Consumer Protection Bureau  
Office of the New Hampshire Attorney General  
33 Capitol Street  
Concord, NH 03301

**Re: Notice of Data Event**

Dear Sir or Madam:

We represent Washington Education Association (“WEA”) located at P.O. Box 9100 Federal Way, WA, 98063 in assisting its local affiliate the Seattle Education Association (“SEA”) and are writing to notify your office of an incident that may affect the security of some personal information relating to one (1) New Hampshire resident. The investigation into this matter is ongoing, and this notice will be supplemented with any new significant facts learned subsequent to its submission. By providing this notice, WEA does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of New Hampshire law, the applicability of the New Hampshire data event notification statute, or personal jurisdiction.

**Nature of the Data Event**

On January 4, 2021, staff discovered that an SEA server had been encrypted by malware. In response, WEA launched an investigation with the assistance of third-party forensic specialists to determine the nature and scope of the incident. WEA determined that while there is no evidence of access to or acquisition of any data within the impacted server, we cannot rule out with certainty the possibility that may have occurred. Out of an abundance of caution, SEA and WEA began an internal investigation of the nature of information held on the impacted SEA server, and to whom that information pertained. On March 18, 2021, WEA determined that the information that could have been subject to unauthorized access includes name, address, and Social Security number of one (1) New Hampshire resident.

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### **Notice to New Hampshire Resident**

On or about April 12, 2021, WEA provided written notice of this incident to all affected individuals, which includes one (1) New Hampshire resident. Written notice is being provided in substantially the same form as the letter attached here as *Exhibit A*.

### **Other Steps Taken and To Be Taken**

Upon discovering the event, WEA moved quickly to investigate and respond to the incident, assess the security of WEA systems, and notify potentially affected individuals. WEA is also working to implement additional safeguards and training to its employees. WEA is providing access to credit monitoring services for one (1) year through TransUnion, to individuals whose personal information was potentially affected by this incident, at no cost to these individuals.

Additionally, WEA is providing impacted individuals with guidance on how to better protect against identity theft and fraud, including advising individuals to report any suspected incidents of identity theft or fraud to their credit card company and/or bank. WEA is providing individuals with information on how to place a fraud alert and security freeze on one's credit file, information on protecting against tax fraud, the contact details for the national consumer reporting agencies, information on how to obtain a free credit report, a reminder to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing account statements and monitoring free credit reports, and encouragement to contact the Federal Trade Commission, their state Attorney General, and law enforcement to report attempted or actual identity theft and fraud.

### **Contact Information**

Should you have any questions regarding this notification or other aspects of the data security event, please contact us at (267) 930-4775.

Very truly yours,



Christopher J. DiLenno of  
MULLEN COUGHLIN LLC

CJD/eeb  
Enclosure

# EXHIBIT A



Return Mail Processing Center  
P.O. Box 6336  
Portland, OR 97228-6336

<<Mail ID>>

<<Name 1>>

<<Name 2>>

<<Address 1>>

<<Address 2>>

<<Address 3>>

<<Address 4>>

<<Address 5>>

<<City>><<State>><<Zip>>

<<Country>>

<<Date>>

Dear <<Name 1>>:

The Seattle Education Association (“SEA”), a local affiliate of the Washington Education Association (“WEA”) writes to inform you of a recent event that may affect the privacy of some of your information. While we are unaware of any actual or attempted misuse of your information, we take this incident seriously and out of an abundance of caution are providing you with information about the event and access to resources so that you can better protect your information, should you feel it is appropriate to do so.

**What Happened?** On January 4, 2021, staff discovered that an SEA server had been encrypted by malware. In response, we launched an investigation with the assistance of third-party forensic specialists to determine the nature and scope of the incident. We determined that while there is no evidence of access to or acquisition of any data within the impacted server, we cannot rule out with certainty the possibility that may have occurred. Out of an abundance of caution, SEA and WEA began an internal investigation of the nature of information held on the impacted SEA server, and to whom that information pertained. On March 18, 2021, we determined that information pertaining to you was held in the impacted SEA server.

**What Information Was Involved?** Our investigation determined that at the time of the incident, the potentially accessible information included your name and <<Data Elements>>.

**What We Are Doing.** The security of information in our care is among our highest priorities. Upon learning of this incident, we took steps to ensure the safety and security of all information held on our systems. In an abundance of caution, we are also notifying potentially affected individuals, including you, so that you may take further steps to best protect your personal information, should you feel it is appropriate to do so. Although we are unaware of any actual or attempted misuse of your personal information as a result of this event, we have arranged for you to enroll, at no cost to you, in an online credit monitoring service for 12 months provided by TransUnion.

**What You Can Do.** We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud, to review your account statements, and monitor your credit reports for suspicious activity for the next twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) months. You may also review the information contained in the attached *Steps You Can Take to Protect Your Personal Information*. There you will also find more information on the credit monitoring and identity protection services we are making available to you. While SEA and WEA will cover the cost of these services, you will need to complete the activation process.

**For More Information.** We understand that you may have questions about this incident that are not addressed in this letter. If you have additional questions, please call our dedicated assistance line at 855-654-0912 between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. PST Monday through Friday, excluding major U.S. holidays. You may also write to us at Washington Education Association, P.O. Box 9100, Federal Way, WA 98063.

We regret any inconvenience this incident may cause you. SEA and WEA remain committed to safeguarding information in our care, and we will continue to take proactive steps to enhance the security of our systems.

Sincerely,

Yvette De La Cruz  
Executive Director  
Seattle Education Association

## STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

### **Enroll in Credit Monitoring**

As a safeguard, we have arranged for you to enroll, at no cost to you, in an online credit monitoring service (*myTrueIdentity*) for one year provided by TransUnion Interactive, a subsidiary of TransUnion,<sup>®</sup> one of the three nationwide credit reporting companies.

#### **How to Enroll: You can sign up online or via U.S. mail delivery.**

- To enroll in this service, go to the *myTrueIdentity* website at [www.MyTrueIdentity.com](http://www.MyTrueIdentity.com) and, in the space referenced as "Enter Activation Code," enter the 12-letter Activation Code <<Insert Unique 12-letter Activation Code>> and follow the three steps to receive your credit monitoring service online within minutes.
- If you do not have access to the Internet and wish to enroll in a similar offline, paper-based credit monitoring service, via U.S. mail delivery, please call the TransUnion Fraud Response Services toll-free hotline at 1-855-288-5422. When prompted, enter the six-digit telephone passcode <<Insert static 6-digit Telephone Pass Code>> and follow the steps to enroll in the offline credit monitoring service, add an initial fraud alert to your credit file, or to speak to a TransUnion representative if you believe you may be a victim of identity theft.

You can sign up for the online or offline credit monitoring service anytime between now and <<Enrollment Deadline>>. Due to privacy laws, we cannot register you directly. Please note that credit monitoring services might not be available for individuals who do not have a credit file with TransUnion or an address in the United States (or its territories) and a valid Social Security number. Enrolling in this service will not affect your credit score.

### **ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 12-MONTH COMPLIMENTARY CREDIT MONITORING SERVICE:**

- Once you are enrolled, you will be able to obtain one year of unlimited access to your TransUnion credit report and credit score.
- The daily credit monitoring service will notify you if there are any critical changes to your credit file at TransUnion, including fraud alerts, new inquiries, new accounts, new public records, late payments, changes of address, and more.
- The service also includes access to an identity restoration program that provides assistance in the event that your identity is compromised and up to \$1,000,000 in identity theft insurance with no deductible. (Policy limitations and exclusions may apply.)

### **Monitor Your Accounts**

Under U.S. law, a consumer is entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. To order your free credit report, visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. You may also directly contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below to request a free copy of your credit report.

Consumers have the right to place an initial or extended "fraud alert" on a credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer's credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer's identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting seven years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any one of the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, consumers have the right to place a "credit freeze" on a credit report, which will prohibit a credit bureau from releasing information in the credit report without the consumer's express authorization. The credit freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, you should be aware that using a credit freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, you cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on your credit report. To request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

1. Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
2. Social Security number;
3. Date of birth;
4. Addresses for the prior two to five years;
5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.); and
7. A copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft if you are a victim of identity theft.



Should you wish to place a fraud alert or credit freeze, please contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below:

<b>Equifax</b>	<b>Experian</b>	<b>TransUnion</b>
<a href="https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/">https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/</a>	<a href="https://www.experian.com/help/">https://www.experian.com/help/</a>	<a href="https://www.transunion.com/credit-help">https://www.transunion.com/credit-help</a>
888-298-0045	1-888-397-3742	833-395-6938
Equifax Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 105069, Atlanta, GA 30348-5069	Experian Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013	TransUnion Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016
Equifax Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348-5788	Experian Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013	TransUnion Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094

### **Additional Information**

You may further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps you can take to protect your personal information by contacting the consumer reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission, or your state Attorney General. The Federal Trade Commission may be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580; [www.identitytheft.gov](http://www.identitytheft.gov); 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. You can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. You have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some proof that you have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement and your state Attorney General. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

*For District of Columbia residents*, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at: 441 4th St. NW #1100, Washington, D.C. 20001; 202-727-3400; and [oag@dc.gov](mailto:oag@dc.gov).

*For Maryland residents*, the Maryland Attorney General may be contacted at: 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-410-528-8662 or 1-888-743-0023; and [www.oag.state.md.us](http://www.oag.state.md.us). WEA is located at P.O. Box 9100, Federal Way WA 98063.

*For North Carolina residents*, the North Carolina Attorney General may be contacted at: 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001; 1-877-566-7226 or 1-919-716-6000; and [www.ncdoj.gov](http://www.ncdoj.gov).

*For Rhode Island residents*, the Rhode Island Attorney General may be reached at: 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903; [www.riag.ri.gov](http://www.riag.ri.gov); and 1-401-274-4400. Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. There are XX Rhode Island residents impacted by this incident.

*For New Mexico residents*, you have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in your credit file has been used against you, the right to know what is in your credit file, the right to ask for your credit score, and the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. Further, pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the consumer reporting bureaus must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; access to your file is limited; you must give your consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; you may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report; and you may seek damages from violators. You may have additional rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act not summarized here. Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have specific additional rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. We encourage you to review your rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting [www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504\\_cfpb\\_summary\\_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf](http://www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_summary_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf), or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

*For New York residents*, the New York Attorney General may be contacted at: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; 1-800-771-7755; or <https://ag.ny.gov/>.