



Notice of Data Event

Whitman-Hanson Regional School District, Whitman, MA

Whitman-Hanson Regional School District (the “District”) was the victim of an isolated ransomware incident in late July 2022 that resulted in a third party gaining unauthorized access and possibly extracting past and present District employee data from Whitman-Hanson’s on-site servers. The District is hereby providing notice of the incident to all past and present employees not previously notified directly by mail.

While there is currently no indication your personal information identified was extracted or used, there is reason to believe it may have been accessed during this incident.

Upon learning of the issue, the District immediately notified local police, Massachusetts State Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The District also engaged the appropriate forensic consultants to investigate the root of the incident, secure its systems, prevent this issue from recurring, and identify any sensitive or personal information that may have been impacted as a result.

Since learning of the incident. The District has been diligently working to identify and obtain sufficient information in order to provide as many direct notices as possible.

The District began notifying impacted individuals for whom they had addresses of this event by mail on January 6, 2023. The District was unable to locate addresses for a number of individuals affected by this data event and is therefore making this media notice.

Although the District is unaware of any actual or attempted misuse of any information, it is providing notice of this incident out of an abundance of caution and in compliance with state law. It is also providing complimentary 2-year credit monitoring services through Experian to those impacted by this incident.

If you would like to determine whether you were potentially impacted, please call (781) 618-7000. The District encourages potentially impacted individuals to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud, to review account statements, and to monitor their credit reports for suspicious activity. Individuals may contact the three major credit reporting agencies for advice on how to obtain free credit reports and how to place fraud alerts and security freezes on credit files. The relevant contact information is below:

Information about Identity Theft Protection

Monitor Your Accounts

We recommend that you regularly review statements from your accounts and periodically obtain your credit report from one or more of the national credit reporting companies. You may obtain a free copy of your credit report online at www.annualcreditreport.com, by calling toll-free 1-877-322-8228, or by mailing an Annual Credit Report Request Form (available at www.annualcreditreport.com) to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA, 30348-5281. You may also purchase a copy of your credit report by contacting one or more of the three national credit reporting agencies listed below.

Equifax[®]
P.O. Box 740241
Atlanta, GA
30374-0241
1-800-685-1111
www.equifax.com

Experian
P.O. Box 9701
Allen, TX 75013-9701
1-888-397-3742
www.experian.com

TransUnion[®]
P.O. Box 1000
Chester, PA
19016-1000
1-800-888-4213
www.transunion.com

When you receive your credit reports, review them carefully. Look for accounts or creditor inquiries that you did not initiate or do not recognize. Look for information, such as home address and Social Security number that is not accurate. If you see anything you do not understand, call the credit reporting agency at the telephone number on the report.

For Connecticut residents: You may contact the Connecticut Office of the Attorney General, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106, 1-860-808-5318, www.ct.gov/ag.

For Massachusetts residents: You may contact the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General, 1 Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108, 1-617-727-8400, www.mass.gov/ago/contact-us.html.

For New York residents: You may contact the New York Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341, 1-800-771-7755, <https://ag.ny.gov/>.

For Rhode Island residents: You may contact the Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General, 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903, 1-401-274-4400, www.riag.ri.gov

For South Carolina residents: You may contact the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs, 293 Greystone Boulevard, Suite 400, Columbia, SC, 803-734-4200, <https://www.consumer.sc.gov/identity-theft-unit>

Reporting identity theft and obtaining a police report

For Massachusetts residents: You have the right to obtain a police report if you are a victim of identity theft.

Credit Freeze

You have the right to put a security freeze, also known as a credit freeze, on your credit file, so that no new credit can be opened in your name without the use of a Personal Identification Number (PIN) that is issued to you when you initiate a freeze. A credit freeze is designed to prevent potential credit grantors from accessing your credit report without your consent. If you place a credit freeze, potential creditors and other third parties will not be able to access your credit report unless you temporarily lift the freeze. Therefore, using a credit freeze may delay your ability to obtain credit. Pursuant to federal law, you cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on your credit report. Should you wish to place a credit freeze, please contact all three major consumer reporting agencies listed below.

Equifax
P.O. Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348-5788
1-800-685-1111
www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services

Experian
P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX
75013-9554
1-888-397-3742
www.experian.com/freeze/center.html

TransUnion
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA
19016-2000
1-888-909-8872
www.transunion.com/credit-freeze

You must separately place a credit freeze on your credit file at each credit reporting agency. The following information should be included when requesting a credit freeze:

- 1) Full name, with middle initial and any suffixes;
- 2) Social Security number;
- 3) Date of birth (month, day, and year);
- 4) Current address and previous addresses for the past five (5) years;
- 5) Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
- 6) Other personal information as required by the applicable credit reporting agency;

If you request a credit freeze online or by phone, then the credit reporting agencies have one (1) business day after receiving your request to place a credit freeze on your credit file report. If you request a lift of the credit freeze online or by phone, then the credit reporting agency must lift the freeze within one (1) hour. If you request a credit freeze or lift of a credit freeze by mail, then the credit agency must place or lift the credit freeze no later than three (3) business days after getting your request.

Fraud Alerts

You also have the right to place an initial or extended fraud alert on your file at no cost. An initial fraud alert lasts 1-year and 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 7 years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any one of the agencies listed below. The agency you contact will then contact the other two credit agencies.

Equifax
P.O. Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348-5788
1-888-766-0008
www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services

Experian
P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX
75013-9554
1-888-397-3742
www.experian.com/fraud/center.html

TransUnion
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016-2000
1-800-680-7289
www.transunion.com/fraud-victim-resource/place-fraud-alert

Free Credit Report. It is recommended that you remain vigilant by reviewing account statements and monitoring your credit report for unauthorized activity, especially activity that may indicate fraud and identity theft. You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, once every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies.

To order your annual free credit report please visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll free at **1-877-322-8228**.

You can also order your annual free credit report by mailing a completed Annual Credit Report Request Form (available from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's ("FTC") website at www.consumer.ftc.gov) to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

For Massachusetts and Vermont residents: You may obtain one or more (depending on the state) additional copies of your credit report, free of charge. You must contact each of the credit reporting agencies directly to obtain such additional report(s).

Monitor Your Personal Health Information

If applicable to your situation, we recommend that you regularly review the explanation of benefits statement that you receive from your insurer. If you see any service that you believe you did not receive, please contact your insurer at the number on the statement. If you do not receive the regular explanation of benefits statements, contact your provider and request them to send such statements following the provision of services in your name or number.

You may want to order copies of your credit reports and check for any medical bills that you do not recognize. If you find anything suspicious, call the credit reporting agency at the phone number on the report. Keep a copy of this notice for your records in case of future problems with your medical records. You may also want to request a copy of your medical records from your provider, to serve as a baseline. If you are a California resident, we suggest that you visit the website of the California Office of Privacy Protection at www.privacy.ca.gov to find more information about your medical privacy.

Additional Information

You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft and the steps you can take to protect yourself, by contacting your state Attorney General or the Federal Trade Commission. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should be reported to law enforcement, your Attorney General, and the FTC.

The Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580
1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338)
TTY: 1-866-653-4261
www.ftc.gov/idtheft