CHINO VALLEY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

5130 Riverside Drive • Chino, CA 91710 • 909.628.1201 • www.chino.k12.ca.us

June 17, 2020

Subject: Notice of Data Breech

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Chino Valley Unified School District (the "District") is committed to protecting the confidentiality and security of our students' information and that of their parents. We are writing to address a recent incident that involved your data in which an unauthorized individual attempted to exploit a vulnerability in the Aeries software used by the District to store information. The incident would have allowed access to student and parent information that potentially included parent and/or student name, home address, phone number, email address and hashed password—a form of rendering the actual password indecipherable to third parties—for the Aeries System. Because the information stored in the Aeries database is limited to the above, there was no access to any sensitive information such as Social Security numbers, credit card numbers, financial account information, or other information directly impacting your credit rating. Again, that information is not stored in the Aeries database.

This notice explains the incident in detail, measures that have been taken, and some steps you can take in response.

What Happened?

The District uses the Aeries Student Information System to provide students and their parents with online access to information regarding school events and schedules. In late November 2019, Aeries learned that an unauthorized individual attempted to exploit a vulnerability in the Aeries software that would allow access to student and parent information. Aeries later determined that the exploit was successful. Upon discovery, Aeries began an investigation and law enforcement launched an investigation to identify the person responsible, who Aeries believes is now in police custody. On May 1, 2020, Aeries confirmed to us that this individual may have accessed the District's Aeries System. We then conducted our own investigation, and on May 1, 2020, determined that the individual did access parent and student data within the District's Aeries System.

What Information Was Involved?

The information accessed by the perpetrator potentially included parent and/or student name, home address, phone number, email address and hashed password – a form of rendering the actual password indecipherable to third parties – for the Aeries System.

What You Can Do

Even though we have no evidence that your personal information has been misused, we wanted to let you know this happened and assure you we take it very seriously. Even though the password itself was not accessed, it is possible that an individual with enough time and skill could eventually decipher the password. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, you strongly recommend that you change your password the next time you sign into your account. Additionally, if you use the same password for other online accounts, we recommend changing the password for those accounts as well.

What We Are Doing

We understand the importance of protecting the privacy and security of personal information, and we regret any inconvenience or concern this incident may cause. In order to avoid the possibility of unauthorized access to the accounts involved, we are strongly recommending that all account holders whose accounts were involved change their passwords. To help prevent something like this from happening again in the future, we installed the software patch that Aeries made available to remedy the vulnerability that allowed the unauthorized individual to access our Aeries system. In addition, we and Aeries are reviewing our existing policies and procedures to mitigate any risk associated with this incident and to better prevent future incidents.

For More Information

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you. If you have any questions, please call (909) 628-1202 ext. 1110 or email whitney_fields@chino.k12.ca.us

Sincerely,

Whitney J. Fields, MBA, ARM-P
Director, Risk Management & Human Resources