



NOTICE OF DATA BREACH, Beverly Hills Unified School District:

Dear BHUSD Parents/Guardians:

Beverly Hills 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 may have involved your data. This notice explains the incident, 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 April 27, 2020, we were notified by Aeries that this individual may have accessed the District's Aeries System. We then contacted Aeries and, on May 5, 2020, we were informed that the individual did access parent and student data within the District's Aeries System.

What Information Was Involved?

The information accessible to 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, we have increased security for passwords. You will be required to change your password to comply with the bulleted list below. You will be required to do so the next time you log on to the Aeries Parent Portal. We recommend you do so immediately. Additionally, if you use the same password for other online accounts, we recommend changing the password for those accounts as well. Although this incident was the result of a vulnerability in Aeries' system, not the District's, we have taken this opportunity to review the District's security as well. To further strengthen account security, your new password must include the following:

- Lower case letters
- At least one (1) upper case letter
- At least 1 special character
- At least 1 number
- At least eight (8) characters.

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 requiring all account holders whose accounts were involved to 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 potentially 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 need technical assistance or support, please email tech@bhusd.org.

We have also posted a Frequently Asked Questions page for you [here](#). If you have questions or concerns not addressed in the FAQ, please contact David Damico (Executive Director of Technology Services and Support) at ddamico@bhusd.org.

Sincerely,

David Damico
Executive Director, Technology Services and Support
Beverly Hills Unified School District
ddamico@bhusd.org



www.bhusd.org

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