CORNING UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jared Caylor, Superintendent

Board Members: James Scott Patton, William Mache, Jim Bingham, Todd Henderson, Ken Vaughan

Date: May 18, 2020

NOTICE OF DATA BREACH

We are contacting you about a data security incident that may have exposed some of your personal information. Corning Union High School District takes the protection and proper use of your information very seriously. For this reason, we are contacting you directly to explain the circumstances of the incident.

What Happened?

The district's Student Information System developer, Aeries Software, Inc. (DBA Eagle Software) was notified in late November 2019 of unauthorized attempts to access data through the Aeries SIS. In response, they immediately began an investigation into whether these attempts had been successful and, if so, how they had been accomplished, what impact on data, if any, and what steps they could take to thwart future unauthorized access to data through the Aeries SIS using the same or similar means. At the time, their investigation did not reveal any compromise of the Aeries SIS or data.

Nevertheless, Aeries Software deployed a series of security patches in the December 20, 2019 version of the Aeries SIS which addressed the findings of their internal investigation.

In working with the District and law enforcement officials, in March 2020 Aeries Software was able to expand their earlier investigation with the new information as to the methods used by the individuals who had accessed data without authorization. Specifically, they determined that the unauthorized access had included Parent and Student Login information, physical residence addresses, emails addresses, and password hashes. With access to a password hash, weak, common or simple passwords, can be deconstructed to gain unauthorized access to Parent and Student Accounts.

What Information Was Involved?

Parent and Student Login information, physical residence addresses, emails addresses, and password hashes. However, no other data elements were impacted as a result of this incident.

643 Blackburn Ave. Corning, CA 96021   phone: 530 824-8000 fax: 530 824-8005

What We Are Doing
While there is no evidence to suggest that your data was misused, state law requires that we notify our families whose data may have been subject to unauthorized access. Out of an abundance of caution, we have reset the portal account passwords.

It is also important to understand that upon being made aware of these vulnerabilities, Aeries Software took immediate action to ensure that critical patches were deployed to ensure that the vulnerabilities were no longer a threat to the system. In addition, Aeries Software has taken additional technical measures to prevent future incidents and they are adopting new security protocols to increase protection of all student data. Aeries Software will also be engaging an independent third party to assist them in conducting a complete audit and analysis of their system security.

What You Can Do
We have no reason to believe that any data was accessed revealing sensitive information that would directly impact your credit rating. If you suspect your personal information has been misused, visit the FTC's site at IdentityTheft.gov. You can also contact all three major credit bureaus to request that your credit reports be sent to you, free of charge, for your review.

For More Information
We will continue to follow-up with any additional recommendations, details, or bulletins that you should be made aware of as more information comes in. If you have any questions regarding this incident or if you desire further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at 530-824-8000

Sincerely,

Corning Union High School District