

CIPRIANI & WERNER

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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September 9, 2024

Via Email

Office of the Attorney General
Attn: Security Breach Notification
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
idtheft@oag.state.md.us

RE: Data Incident Notification

To Whom It May Concern:

We serve as counsel for El Monte Union High School District, ("EMUHSD") located at 3537 Johnson Avenue, El Monte, CA 91731. We write to provide notification of a recent data security incident. By providing this notice, EMUHSD does not waive any rights or defenses under Maryland State law, including the data breach notification statute.

EMUHSD recently experienced a network disruption incident and promptly initiated an investigation which included engaging third-party specialists to assist with understanding the nature and scope of the incident. The investigation revealed that certain information within EMUHSD systems was subject to unauthorized access on or around July 4, 2024. EMUHSD subsequently began a review of the affected data to determine the specific type of information that was affected and the individuals to whom it pertained. On July 29, 2024, this process was completed, and EMUHSD worked to confirm up-to-date address information to provide individuals with direct notification as soon as possible.

On September 4, 2024, EMUHSD received its results from a National Change of Address (NCOA) search and confirmed this incident potentially affected 2 Maryland residents. The information potentially impacted included first and last name and Social Security number.

In response to this incident, EMUHSD took steps to secure their environment, conduct an investigation, and notify law enforcement. Additionally, EMUHSD began providing notice to the potentially impacted individuals on September 9, 2024 via U.S. mail. A copy of the notice is attached as **Exhibit A**. In an abundance of caution, EMUHSD is offering the potentially impacted individuals complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services.

Very truly yours,
Cipriani & Werner, P.C.



Jason Goodwin, Esq.

Exhibit A

El Monte Union High School District
c/o Cyberscout
PO Box 1286
Dearborn, MI 48120-9998



<Name>
<Address>

September 9, 2024

Notice of Data Breach

Dear <Name>:

El Monte Union High School District (“El Monte Union”) writes to notify you about a recent data security incident we experienced that involved your personal information as described below. We take the privacy of information in our care seriously. At this time, there is no evidence to suggest that any of your information has been, or will be, misused. In an abundance of caution, we are providing you information about the incident, our response, and steps you can take to protect your information should you feel it is necessary to do so.

What Happened: El Monte Union recently experienced a network disruption and promptly initiated an investigation which included engaging third-party specialists to assist with understanding the nature and scope of the incident. Our investigation revealed that certain information within our systems was subject to unauthorized access on or around July 4, 2024. We then began a review of the data to determine the scope of information that was affected and the individuals to whom it pertained. On July 29, 2024, this process was completed, and we worked to confirm up-to date address information to provide you with notification as soon as possible.

What Information Was Involved: The types of information contained within the potentially affected data included your first and last name, in combination with Social Security Number.

What We Are Doing: We have taken the steps necessary to address and investigate the incident. Upon learning of this incident, we immediately took steps to secure our systems and undertook a thorough investigation. We have also implemented additional technical safeguards to further enhance the security of information in our possession and to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future. Additionally, we are offering you complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services for a period of twelve (12) months.

What You Can Do: We recommend that you remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your credit reports/account statements for suspicious activity and to detect errors. If you discover any suspicious or unusual activity on your accounts, please promptly contact the financial institution or company. We have provided additional information below, which contains more information about steps you can take to help protect yourself against fraud and identity theft.

For More Information: Representatives are available to assist you with questions regarding this incident, please contact our dedicated assistance line at 1-800-405-6108, Monday through Friday from 5:00 am to 5:00 pm Pacific time (excluding major U.S. holidays).

Sincerely,

El Monte Union High School District

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

Enroll in Credit Monitoring / Identity Protection

To enroll in Credit Monitoring services at no charge, please log on to <https://bfs.cyberscout.com/activate> and follow the instructions provided. When prompted please provide the following unique code to receive services: <Code>. In order for you to receive the monitoring services described above, you must enroll within 90 days from the date of this letter. The enrollment requires an internet connection and e-mail account and may not be available to minors under the age of 18 years of age. Please note that when signing up for monitoring services, you may be asked to verify personal information for your own protection to confirm your identity.

Request an Identity Protection PIN

An Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) is a six-digit number that prevents someone else from filing a tax return using your Social Security (SSN) number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). The IP PIN is known only to you and the IRS. It helps the IRS verify your identity when you file your electronic or paper tax return. Even though you may not have a filing requirement, an IP PIN still protects your account. Additional information regarding an IP PIN, including information on how to request an IP PIN, can be found at: www.irs.gov/identity-theft-fraud-scams/get-an-identity-protection-pin. If you want to request an IP PIN, please note:

- You must pass an identity verification process.
- Spouses and dependents are eligible for an IP PIN if they can pass the identity verification process.
- Once you have opted in and obtained an IP PIN online, you will need to retrieve your IP PIN online each calendar year as a CP01A Notice will not be mailed.

Monitor Your Accounts

We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your credit reports/account statements for suspicious activity and to detect errors. Under U.S. law, you are entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax. To order your free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228. Once you receive your credit report, review it for discrepancies and identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting bureau.

You have the right to place an initial or extended fraud alert on a credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a one-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert, 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 lasting seven years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any of the three credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, you 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 your 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 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 credit freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

1. Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., III, etc.);
2. Social Security number;
3. Date of birth;
4. Address for the prior two to five years;
5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility or telephone bill;
6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (e.g., state driver's license or identification card); 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:

TransUnion 1-800-680-7289 www.transunion.com TransUnion Fraud Alert P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016-2000 TransUnion Credit Freeze P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094	Experian 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com Experian Fraud Alert P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 Experian Credit Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013	Equifax 1-888-298-0045 www.equifax.com Equifax Fraud Alert P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348-5069 Equifax Credit Freeze P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788
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Additional Information

You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps you can take to protect your personal information by contacting the credit reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), or your state Attorney General. The FTC also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. The FTC may be reached at 600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20580; www.identitytheft.gov; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261.

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, your state Attorney General, and the FTC.

For Maryland residents, the Maryland Attorney General may be contacted at 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-888-743-0023; and <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov>. El Monte Union High School District can be contacted by mail at 3537 Johnson Ave, El Monte, California 91731.

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: (i) the consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; (ii) the consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; (iii) access to your file is limited; (iv) you must give consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; (v) you may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report; (vi) 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 https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_summary_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf, or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, FTC, 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>.

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.

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

For Washington, D.C. residents, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at 400 6th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001; 202-442-9828, and <https://oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection>. El Monte Union High School District can be contacted by mail at 3537 Johnson Ave, El Monte, California 91731.