

FORT THOMAS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

HIGHLANDS HIGH
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JOHNSON ELEMENTARY
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Rich in Tradition Focused on the Future

January 16, 2025

Dear Families,

We are contacting you about a data breach that has occurred at Fort Thomas Independent Schools. You are receiving this notification because Personally Identifiable Information (PII) related to you and/or your child was recently located in a compromised district email account.

What Happened

On December 4, 2024, The Kentucky Department of Education distributed a notification about an application discovered across multiple districts that was being used for malicious purposes. The application was added to several Microsoft 365 mailboxes across the Commonwealth as part of a sophisticated phishing scam. The application in question allows a cyber actor to copy an email inbox that has been successfully compromised.

Upon receiving this notification, Fort Thomas Independent Schools began an investigation and identified one district user account that had been unknowingly connected to that application on November 15, 2024.

The application was immediately removed. However, the association of the application to the inbox provides reasonable suspicion that the inbox has been copied to another location that the district cannot secure.

A lengthy and thorough investigation of that inbox was conducted and concluded on January 6, 2025. That investigation identified 910 individuals whose PII was included inside attached documents.

What Information Was Involved

The compromised inbox contained Student Injury Reports and related insurance documentation dating back to 2007. These documents included one or more of the following pieces of student and/or parent information:

Name, Address, Birth Date, Health Data, Social Security Number, Personal Insurance Company Policy Number

Our families whose PII was located within those documents are being notified with this correspondence. This may include information related to the student or the parent.

What We Are Doing

Fort Thomas Independent Schools has worked closely with the Kentucky Department of Education to address this incident. We have implemented security enhancements beyond what were already in place to prevent similar incidents.

The district is committed to keeping you and our greater community informed. Updates will be posted on our district's Technology webpage at <https://www.fortthomas.kyschools.us/departments/technology>

What You Can Do

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends that you place a free fraud alert on your credit file. A fraud alert tells creditors to contact you before they open any new accounts or change your existing accounts. Contact any one of the three major credit bureaus. As soon as one credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, the others are notified to place fraud alerts. The initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for one year. You can renew it after one year.

Equifax: equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services or 1-800-685-1111

Experian: experian.com/help or 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion: transunion.com/credit-help or 1-888-909-8872

Ask each credit bureau to send you a free credit report after it places a fraud alert on your file. Review your credit reports for accounts and inquiries you do not recognize. These can be signs of identity theft. If your personal information has been misused, visit the FTC's site at IdentityTheft.gov to report the identity theft and get recovery steps. The FTC can be contacted at 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580 or by phone at 202.326.2222. We have attached information from the FTC's website, IdentityTheft.gov/databreach, about steps you can take to help protect yourself from identity theft. The steps are based on the types of information exposed in this breach.

The Office of the Kentucky Attorney General can be contacted at 700 Capital Avenue, Suite 118, Frankfort, KY 40601-3449 or by phone at 502.696.5300. Identity Theft information from this office is available at the following website:

<https://www.ag.ky.gov/Resources/Consumer-Resources/Consumers/Pages/Identity-Theft.aspx>.

For More Information, contact Jody Johnson, Director of Technology and Information, at 859.815.2014 or email him at cybersecurity@fortthomas.kyschools.us.

Protecting your information is a top priority. We are taking this matter very seriously and apologize for inconveniences this situation may have created. Please know the district continuously monitors and collaborates with experts to ensure we have the most effective data security systems, policies, and procedures available.

Sincerely,



Jody Johnson
Director of Technology and Information



Brian Robinson
Superintendent