DATA SECURITY

ANNUAL EMPLOYEE TRAINING

NEW YORK STATE
MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

REVIEW

WHAT IS PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION?

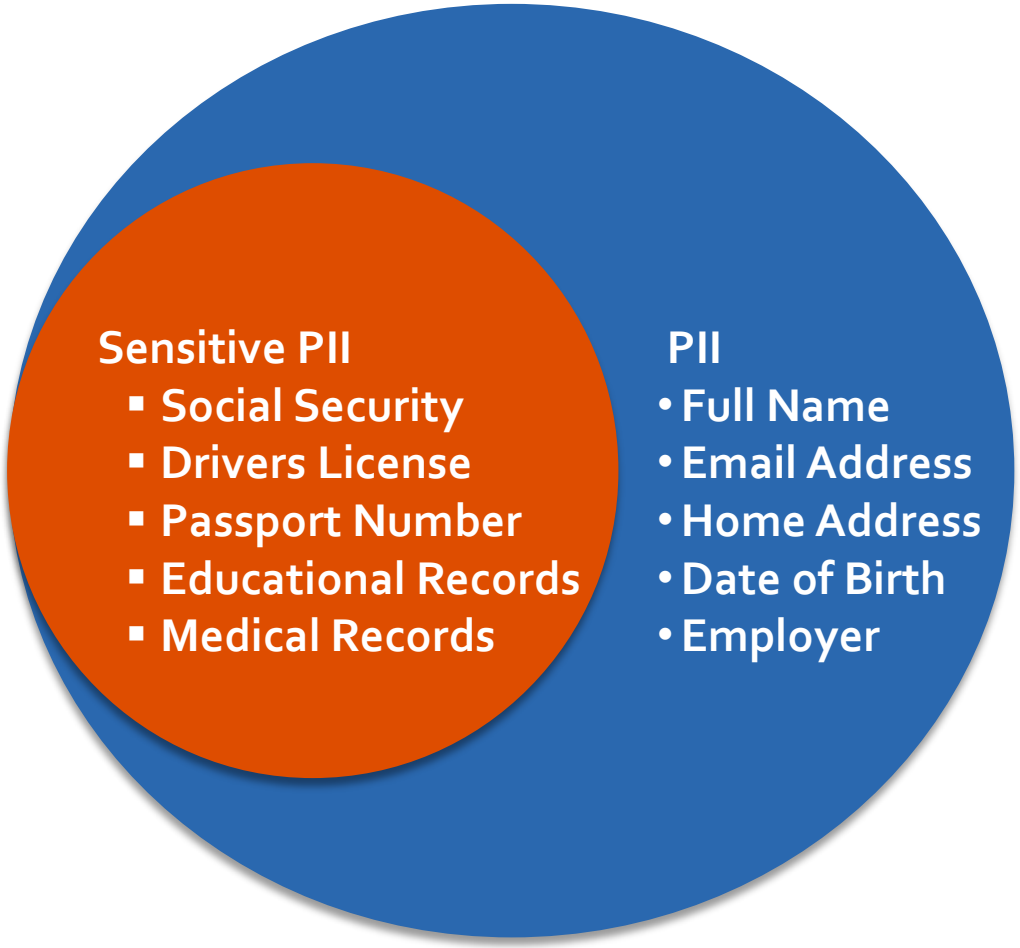
NEW YORK STATE
MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

Personally Identifiable Information can be any information about an individual that can be used on its own or with other information to uniquely identify, contact, or locate them

As an MEP employee or contractor, you are responsible for protecting any data that you have collected

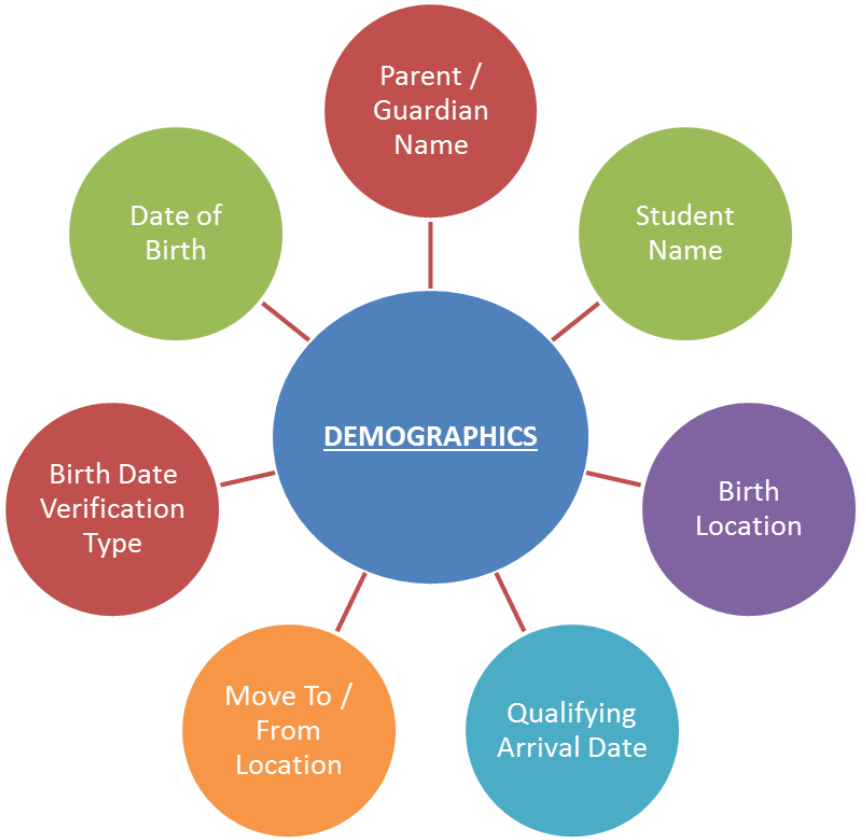
Examples of PII



Combining pieces of PII data could result in a set of information that is uniquely identifiable

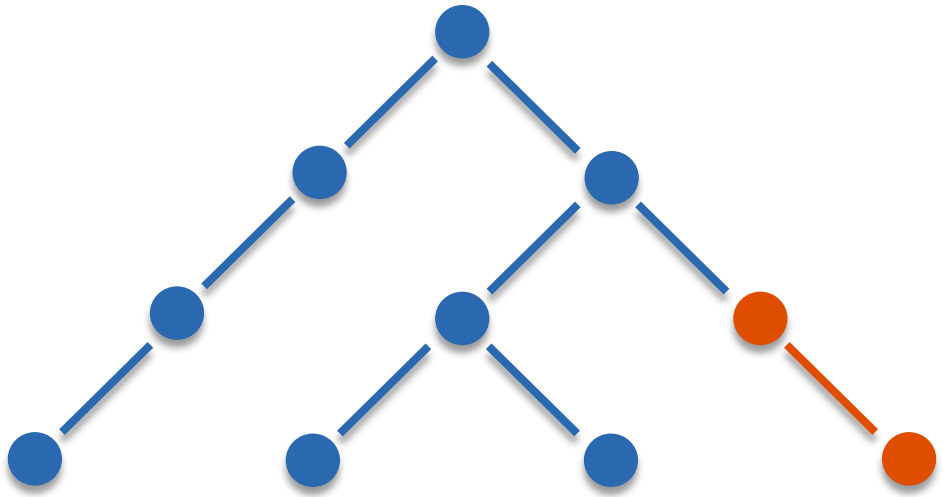
Migrant Student Data

- Migrant student information collected through the Certificate of Eligibility (COE) includes Sensitive PII
- Academic records associated with a migrant student are considered Sensitive PII



Principle of Least Privilege

This is the principle of granting the least amount of access necessary to perform one's job duties. Following the Principle of Least Privilege better safeguards the system data against possible compromise. In New York, student data is only granted to the employees who work with those students



Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

- Passed in 1974
- Allows students to request their own records from schools
- **Protects the disclosure of student PII and educational records without consent**
- Exempts certain institutions from release consent requirements

FERPA Exceptions

- School officials with legitimate educational interest
- Other schools to which a student is transferring
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student
- Organizations conducting certain studies for, or on behalf of, the school

Source: https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html

FERPA Exceptions (continued)

- Accrediting organizations
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies
- State and local authorities within a juvenile justice system pursuant to specific state law

Source: https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html

Parent's Bill of Rights

- NYSED has required a "parent's bill of rights" to explain what privileges parents have to access their children's data.
- This bill of rights is posted on nysmigrant.org/billofrights
- The rights can be summarized as:
  - Parent's have the right to review their child's education record
  - An educational agency must verify the identity of the requesting parent
  - These requests must go directly to the educational agency, and not to a third party
  - An educational agency must inform the parent of this right annually
  - The educational agency must fulfill this request within 45 days
  - The records may be sent electronically if the parent requests, as long as they follow proper security requirements

SECURITY TOOLKIT

USERS | DEVICES | INTERNET

NEW YORK STATE
MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Three "C"s of Security

Secure conduct

Secure computers

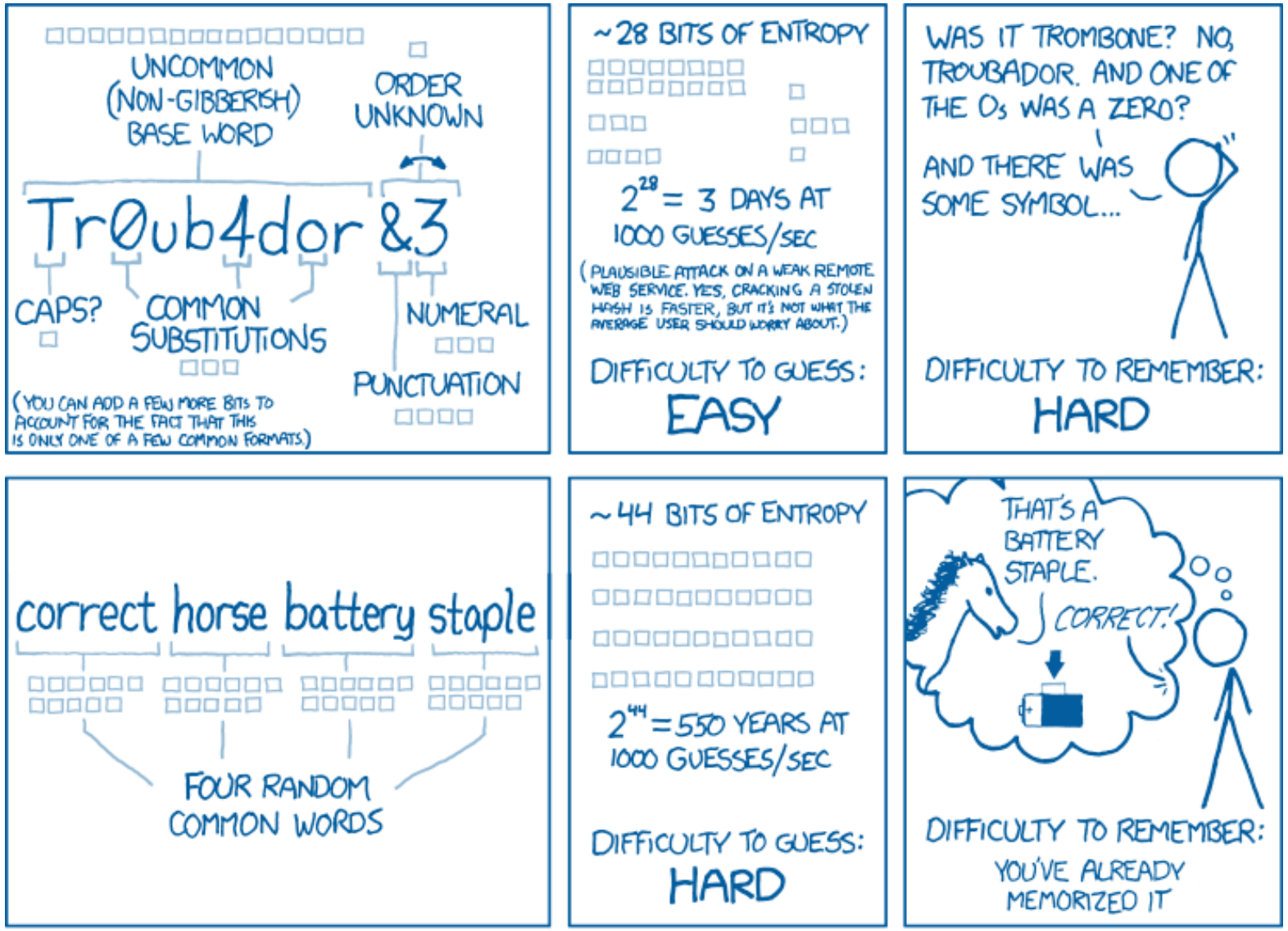
Secure communications

Conduct: Thinking Secure

- Ensure only FERPA authorized parties have access to protected information
- Ensure NYS Migrant Education information is not released without consent

Conduct: Thinking Secure

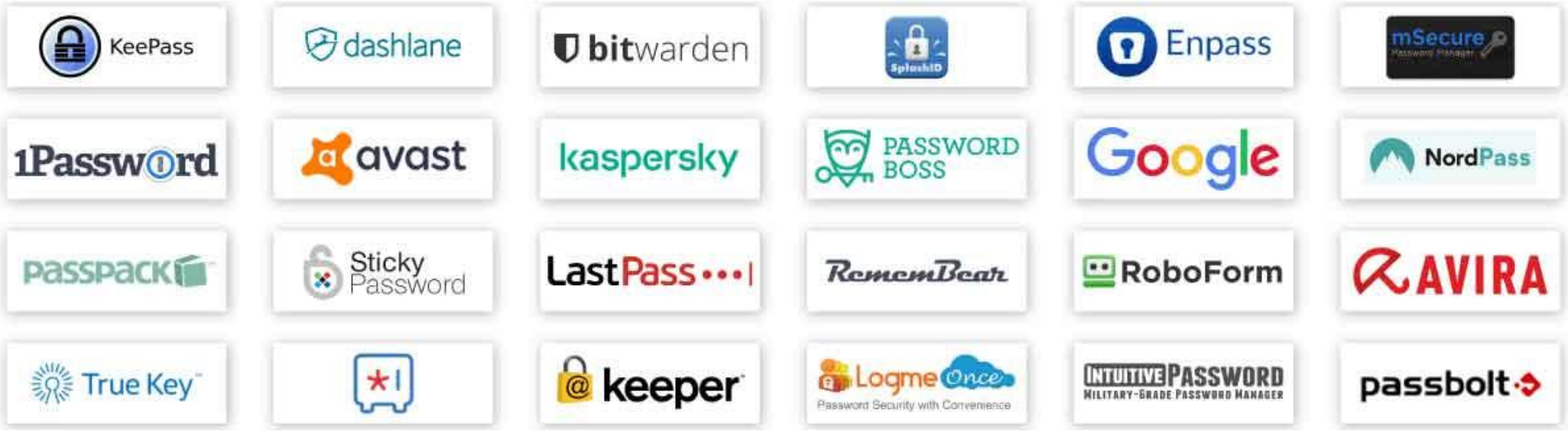
- Request to use two-factor authentication whenever it is available
- **Never** share your account passwords or passphrases with anyone else. Users are responsible for all actions taken with their credentials
- Instead of a password, consider using a passphrase
  - Passphrases use combinations of words that are easy to remember, but difficult for a computer to guess


UNCOMMON (NON-GIBBERISH) BASE WORD
ORDER UNKNOWN
Tr0ub4dor&3
CAPS?
COMMON SUBSTITUTIONS
NUMERAL
PUNCTUATION
(YOU CAN ADD A FEW MORE BITS TO ACCOUNT FOR THE FACT THAT THIS IS ONLY ONE OF A FEW COMMON FORMATS.)
~28 BITS OF ENTROPY
2^28 = 3 DAYS AT 1000 GUESSES/SEC
(PLAUSIBLE ATTACK ON A WEAK REMOTE WEB SERVICE. YES, CRACKING A STOLEN HASH IS FASTER, BUT IT'S NOT WHAT THE AVERAGE USER SHOULD WORRY ABOUT.)
DIFFICULTY TO GUESS:
EASY
WAS IT TROMBONE? NO, TROUBADOR. AND ONE OF THE Os WAS A ZERO?
AND THERE WAS SOME SYMBOL...
DIFFICULTY TO REMEMBER:
HARD
correct horse battery staple
FOUR RANDOM COMMON WORDS
~44 BITS OF ENTROPY
2^44 = 550 YEARS AT 1000 GUESSES/SEC
DIFFICULTY TO GUESS:
HARD
THAT'S A BATTERY STAPLE.
CORRECT!
DIFFICULTY TO REMEMBER:
YOU'VE ALREADY MEMORIZED IT
THROUGH 20 YEARS OF EFFORT, WE'VE SUCCESSFULLY TRAINED EVERYONE TO USE PASSWORDS THAT ARE HARD FOR HUMANS TO REMEMBER, BUT EASY FOR COMPUTERS TO GUESS.

Credit: xkcd

Conduct: Thinking Secure

- Consider using a password manager
  - These will generate and remember unique passwords for all your accounts
  - Reduces the number of passphrases that you need to remember
  - Uses one master passphrase that **cannot** be reset if forgotten



Conduct: Thinking Secure

- Be aware of phishing scams
- Phishing scam emails attempt to trick you into giving up your password or other private information
- Phishing scam emails often try to create a sense of urgency, and inform you that you must act quickly otherwise something bad will happen to you

From: [redacted]@eeisd.org>
Date: Tue, Mar 13, 2018 at 9:24 AM
Subject: RE: All Staff & Employee
To: [redacted]@eeisd.org>

Urgent subject

Dear Employee & Staff

Generic greeting

Service Notification!

New security updates need to be performed on our servers this Morning due to recent virus and spammer. Please click on the helpdesk<http://serverprovider.justfolio.com/>" and sign in to the admin upgrade page for maintenance to secure your mailbox. Kindly update your current password and automatically upgrade<http://serverprovider.justfolio.com/> to the most recent e-mail Outlook Web Apps 2018.

Imperfect grammar

Website builder

System Administrator,
Connected to Microsoft Exchange.

Generic signature

ShareFile Attachments

Expires October 21, 2024

Fort Scott Community College Invoice_0647.pdf 4 MB

VIEW SHARED DOCUMENT

[redacted] uses Microsoft ShareFile to share documents securely.

Conduct: Thinking Secure

- Be aware of social engineering scams
  - Social engineering phone calls often come unprompted from an individual claiming to represent a large organization, such as Microsoft, who are calling with regards to an issue they have found on your computer
  - They will often attempt to direct you to websites that request your credit card number, account information, or access to your computer
  - Stop. Think. Ask the representative very simple questions that they would know if they worked for your organization. If they cannot answer, hang up

Conduct: Using AI

- Modern AI uses a massive collection of data called “Large Language Models” or LLMs to generate convincing sounding text
- It can also be used to create realistic looking images or video
- There are very few enforced laws governing how modern AI companies can acquire and use data to train their LLMs
- **DO NOT** use any form of AI on NYSMEP data under any circumstance
- Approach the use of AI products outside of work with careful consideration

Computers: Device Security

- All devices containing PII should use full disk encryption
  - Bitlocker for Windows and for USB drives containing PII
  - FileVault for MacOS
- All devices used for work should have antivirus installed
- Do not leave devices out in a place where they may be stolen, such as an unattended car seat. Instead, store them somewhere out of sight.
- Work documents should be securely backed up on a network drive or a cloud platform so they can be restored if destroyed

Communications: Internet Security

- When connecting to public WiFi network, use a VPN if available or a mobile hotspot instead
- PII must never be placed in the body of an email; instead, it must be sent as an encrypted attachment if no better alternative to email is possible
- The password for an encrypted attachment must be sent through a different form of communication (separation of mediums)
  - Phone call
  - Text
  - Previously known password

Communications: Internet Security

- Common file encryption programs include:
  - **Microsoft Office:** Encrypt Office files
  - **Adobe Acrobat Pro:** Encrypt PDF files
  - **7zip:** Compress & encrypt files
  - **NAPS2:** Scan documents directly to an encrypted PDF file

Communications: Internet Security

- Email accounts must be owned and administered directly by the NYSMEP or a sponsoring institution.
- The NYSMEP or the sponsoring institution must be able to monitor actions performed by these accounts, audit communications sent and received by these accounts, and regulate access controls to these accounts. They must be able to suspend access to these accounts on demand without participation by the end user. See page 4 of the policy book for more information.
- Personal email accounts (gmail.com, yahoo.com, etc) may not be used for work.

QUESTION

"Can I just send the password in a second email?"

NO

Communications: Internet Security

- **Discuss:** what if I do not have another way to contact the individual?
- Include a confidentiality notice at the bottom of emails containing such attachments or information

Confidentiality Notice

"This electronic message is intended to be for the use only of the named recipient, and may contain information from the [organization] that is confidential or privileged, or protected FERPA. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error or are not the named recipient, please notify us immediately, either by contacting the sender at the electronic mail address noted above or calling the [organization] at [phone number], and delete and destroy all copies of this message. Thank you"

BREACH OF DATA

RISKS | CAUSES | REPORTING

NEW YORK STATE
MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Risks of improper handling

Risks to ***Migrant Children and Families***

- Identity theft, financial loss, and/or credit damage
- Emotional distress
- Loss of confidence in the government

Risks to ***MEP Employees***

- Disciplinary action resulting in: loss of clearance, loss of access to PII, or loss of employment
- Penalties under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Privacy Act
- Diminished reputation

Risks to the ***MEP***

- Diminished reputation
- Costs of mitigation and/or litigation
- Impact on agency processes
- Loss of the public trust

Causes

- Can be a simple mistake, such as sending an email with PII to the wrong recipient
- Can be the result of a compromised account or device
- Theft of device
- Lack of encryption
- Many more

- Better safe than sorry- report any warning signs

Reporting

- Step 1: Contain the breach
- Step 2: Contact immediate supervisor
- Step 3: Contact the ID&R / MIS2000 Director
- Step 4: Document the breach

- On many occasions, the ID&R / MIS2000 Director might request that you participate in a detailed evaluation of the events leading to the breach for official records, prevention, and other uses

ENCRYPTION TOOLS

MICROSOFT OFFICE | 7-ZIP

NEW YORK STATE
MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Microsoft Office

Add a password to any Office file with this built-in encryption utility

7-zip

Encrypt any file, not just .PDFs!

Online Guide

All encryption steps can be found online for future reference at www.nysmigrant.org/encryption

What can you do right now?

- Turn on multifactor authentication for all your accounts
- Start using a passphrase for your next account
- Find a password manager that is right for you
- See if a VPN is available to you through your organization

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

NEW YORK STATE
MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM