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# DATA SECURITY

ANNUAL EMPLOYEE TRAINING



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# REVIEW

WHAT IS PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION?



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## 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**

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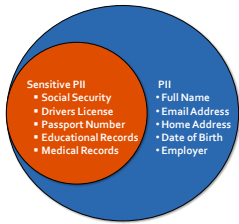
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### Examples of PII



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

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### 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




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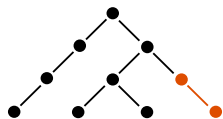
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### Principle of Least Privilege

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




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## 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

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## 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>

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## 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>

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## 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](https://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

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## SECURITY TOOLKIT

USERS | DEVICES | INTERNET




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## The Three "C"s of Security



Secure conduct



Secure computers



Secure communications

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**Secure Conduct**  
Thinking secure when interacting with student data



**Secure Computers**  
Ensuring all devices accessing student data are properly secured



**Secure Communications**  
Utilizing secure methods to connect and send data over the internet

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### Conduct: Thinking Secure

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

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### 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

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<p>UNCOMMON (NON-COMMON) BRAG WORD</p> <p>ORDER UNUSUAL</p> <p>Tr0ub4dor &amp; 3</p> <p>COMMON SUBSTITUTIONS</p> <p>NUMERAL</p> <p>PUNCTUATION</p> <p>28 BITS OF ENTROPY</p> <p>2<sup>28</sup> = 3 DAYS AT 1000 GUESSES/SEC</p> <p>DIFFICULTY TO GUESS: EASY</p>	<p>WAS IT TROUBLE? NO, TROUBLE, AND ONE OF THE 28 WAS A ZERO? AND THERE WAS SOME SHAME!</p> <p>DIFFICULTY TO REMEMBER: HARD</p>
<p>correct horse battery staple</p> <p>FOUR RANDOM COMMON WORDS</p> <p>44 BITS OF ENTROPY</p> <p>2<sup>44</sup> = 500 YEARS AT 1000 GUESSES/SEC</p> <p>DIFFICULTY TO GUESS: HARD</p>	<p>IT'S A BATTERY STAPLE. CORRECT!</p> <p>DIFFICULTY TO REMEMBER: YOU'VE ALREADY RECORDED IT!</p>

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

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Please give me coffee?

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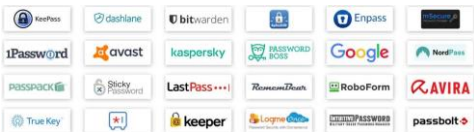
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### Conduct: Thinking Secure

- 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




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## 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

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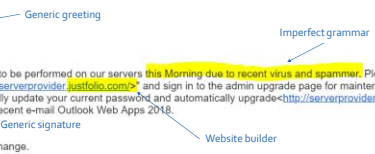
From: [redacted] <[redacted]@eeisd.org>  
 Date: Tue, Mar 13, 2018 at 9:24 AM  
 Subject: RE: All Staff & Employees  
 To: [redacted] <[redacted]@eeisd.org>

Dear Employee & Staff  
 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.

System Administrator  
 Connected to Microsoft Exchange.

© 2018 All rights reserved Microsoft Corporation.




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## 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

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## 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

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## Computers: Device Security



Devices with Smart Assistants such as Siri, Alexa, or the Google Assistant, are configured to constantly listen for commands. It is best practice to use the "mute" feature on any of these devices while at work, particularly when any Personally Identifiable Information is being discussed.

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### 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

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### 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

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### Communications: Internet Security

- Do not use a personal email account (gmail.com, yahoo.com, etc) for work
- Consider using **plus addressing** when creating accounts or signing up for mailing lists
  - **Plus addressing** adds a unique string of text after a plus sign in your email address
  - This creates a unique email address for all your accounts that can be used to spot and contain a data breach
  - email+string@example.com

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## QUESTION

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

# NO

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## 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

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## 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"

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# BREACH OF DATA

RISKS | CAUSES | REPORTING



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## 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## ENCRYPTION TOOLS

MICROSOFT OFFICE | 7-ZIP



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## Microsoft Office

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



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### 7-zip

Encrypt any file, not just .PDFs!



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### Online Guide

All encryption steps can be found online for future reference at [www.nysmigrant.org/encryption](http://www.nysmigrant.org/encryption)



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### 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

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# QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!



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