



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

### **Summary of Ransomware Attack Incident and Recommended Action**

On October 26, 2017, a Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) employee's state-issued laptop computer was compromised through a malicious ransomware attack. As a result, students in school districts throughout Texas may have been potentially impacted by the breach. The information exposed on the employee's laptop included names, social security numbers, home addresses, birthdates, and personal phone numbers of the affected students and their families. To date, TDA's Information Security Officer (ISO) has identified more than 700 students whose sensitive personal information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, exposed to acquisition by an unauthorized person.

It is important to note that, to date, TDA's ISO has not discovered any evidence to suggest misuse of the information that was compromised by the ransomware exploit.

To mitigate this potential exposure, TDA's ISO recommends that the affected students, or parents of the affected students, if minors, contact the three major credit bureaus and activate a fraud alert on behalf of the students impacted by ransomware attack.

Notices are available on TDA's Square Meals [website](#) for the children's parents or guardians that are impacted by the ransomware attack. (Section 521.053(f) of the Texas Business and Commerce Code).

Please view list below of affected schools and school districts with students who have been potentially impacted by the successful ransomware.

### **Independent School Districts Impacted by ransomware attack**

ALBA-GOLDEN ISD	KEENE ISD
ALVARADO ISD	KENNEDALE ISD
ARGYLE ISD	KRUM ISD
BIG SANDY ISD-DALLARDSVILLE	LAKE DALLAS ISD
BOLES ISD	MELISSA ISD
BOYD ISD	NECHES ISD
CENTRAL ISD	NEW DIANA ISD
CLEBURNE ISD	ORE CITY ISD
CORISCANA ISD	PARADISE ISD
CROWLEY ISD	PILOT POINT ISD

DALLAS COUNTY JUVENILE DEPARTMENT	PINEYWOODS COMMUNITY ACADEMY
ENNIS ISD	PONDER ISD
ETOILE ISD	PRINCETON ISD
GILMER ISD	SLIDELL ISD
GLADEWATER ISD	ST MARY OF CARMEL SCHOOL
GUNTER ISD	ST GEORGE SCHOOL
HARLETON ISD	TERRELL ISD
HARRISON COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES	UNION GROVE ISD
JEAN MASSIEU ACADEMY	UNION HILL ISD
KARNACK ISD	

**References – Applicable State Law:**

Section 521.053(b) of the Texas Business and Commerce Code – requires notice to a person whose sensitive personal information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person.

Section 521.053(f) of the Texas Business and Commerce Code – authorizes alternate notification via electronic mail, if the person providing notice has electronic mail addresses for the affected persons; conspicuous posting on the entity’s website; or broadcast on major statewide media.

Section 521.002(a) of the Texas Business and Commerce Code – defines PII as information that alone or in conjunction with other information identifies an individual, including an individual's name, social security number, date of birth, government-issued identification number, mother’s maiden name, personal address, driver’s license number, etc.