

Scottsboro City Board of Education

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Dear Wildcat Family,

As I informed our current employees last week via email, we have recently been notified by several employees of difficulties encountered when filing income tax returns. The specific problem is that when these employees filed their tax returns, they received a message that the tax return was rejected because someone else had already filed a return using that particular social security number. As a result, in my initial correspondence to employees, I explained the steps we had already taken through our technology department to work with Harris Solutions and Alabama SuperComputer to attempt to discover the source of this incident. At that time we were unable to identify how this incident originated, as both Harris Solutions and Alabama SuperComputer confirmed that there was no unusual activity on our server logs that would indicate a hacking attempt.

Over the weekend, however, we have discovered evidence that our payroll department has been the victim of an email phishing scam. The perpetrator (who remains unknown to us) that originated the email posed as the Superintendent and requested W2 information from all employees through the payroll department. The payroll department complied, believing that they were sending the requested information to the Superintendent. Scottsboro City Schools is not the first school system to be victimized by this phishing scam, however, all of this information has been reported to the IRS, the FBI, the Scottsboro Police Department, and the local District Attorney. We are continuing to work closely with these agencies to keep them fully informed of this situation as they continue to work to identify the culprit.

In the meantime, all employees, as well as substitutes, that had a 2017 W-2 from Scottsboro City Schools need to take action immediately to protect their identities. The information provided below is taken directly from the IRS.gov website, which contains helpful information to assist you in your efforts:

If you have encountered identity theft while filing your income taxes, please take the following steps:

- Contact your local police department and file a report for identity theft.
- Visit <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/taxpayer-guide-to-identity-theft> to learn how to report identity theft to the IRS
- Because your SSN has been compromised, the IRS recommends these additional steps:
 - Respond immediately to any IRS notice; call the number provided.
 - Complete IRS [Form 14039](#), Identity Theft Affidavit, if your e-filed return rejects because of a duplicate filing under your SSN or you are instructed to do so. Use a

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fillable form at IRS.gov, print, then attach the form to your return and mail according to instructions.

- If you previously contacted the IRS and did not have a resolution, contact them for specialized assistance at 1-800-908-4490. They have teams available to assist.

Additionally, whether or not you have encountered identity theft while filing your income taxes, please also take these necessary steps:

- File a complaint with the FTC at identitytheft.gov.
- Contact one of the three major credit bureaus to place a 'fraud alert' on your credit records:
 - Equifax, www.Equifax.com, 800-525-6285
 - Experian, www.Experian.com, 888-397-3742
 - TransUnion, www.TransUnion.com, 800-680-7289
- Contact your financial institutions, and close any financial or credit accounts opened without your permission or tampered with by identity thieves.

Please promptly take the necessary steps above to protect your identity. In the case of identity theft related to filing tax returns, taxpayers are still able to file a return, however, additional steps must be taken. The information above will help you to protect your return.

Also, please let us know if we can assist you in any way.



Dr. Jose Reyes, Jr.
Superintendent