

PINEYWOODS COMMUNITY ACADEMY



Dr. Sarah Strinden Elementary School
Dr. Terry Robbins Middle School
PARAMUS ECHS



Dear Parents,

Pineywoods Community Academy received notification that 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 has not discovered any evidence to suggest misuse of the information that was compromised by the ransomware exploit.

To mitigate this potential exposure, TDA recommends that the affected students, or parents of the affected students, if minors, contact the three major credit bureaus which can be found at: <http://www.squaremeals.org>; click the SECURITY-NOTICE LINK and ***activate a fraud alert*** on behalf of the students impacted by the ransomware attack. The three credit bureaus listed at the bottom of their webpage are: Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax.

Respectfully,

Ken Vaughn
Director
Pineywoods Community Academy
936.634.5515