K-12 Cyber Roundup: Disruptions, Data Breaches, Financial Loss

Jul – Dec 2019

Disruptions

Sunapee High School was hit with a ransomware attack, and their **IT department worked 16-18 hours a day for months to restore functions such as food service systems, security cameras, and electronic door locks without paying a ransom.** Teacher **files were safe because they were stored in Google Drive.**

Sunapee, NH / *Dec 2019* / *Story*

Officials at Livingston Schools **were forced to delay the school day** after being hit with a **ransomware attack at multiple schools** across the district.

Livingston, NJ / *Nov 2019* / *Story*

Files at Chicopee schools were **locked due to ransomware.** The hackers demanded a $300,000 ransom, but the school district did not pay.

Chicopee, MA / *Nov 2019* / *Story*

Las Cruces School District **systems were down for over a week** after a ransomware attack.

Las Cruces, NM / *Nov 2019* / *Story*

Ransomware locked San Bernardino Unified School District employees **out of their systems, making email and other systems inaccessible.**

San Bernardino, CA / *Oct 2019* / *Story*

For the **second time in a few months,** Wolcott schools were **hit with a ransomware attack,** leaving **staff and students offline completely.** They **refused to pay a $10,000 ransom.**

Wolcott, CT / *Oct 2019* / *Story*

The Mobile County Public School System's **website was down for 24 hours** after their **third-party website provider was hacked.**

Mobile, AL / *Sep 2019* / *Story*

Ava School District **shut down its network** after **ransom notes came out of network printers.**

Ava, MO / *Sep 2019* / *Story*

Over **3,000 Wallenpaupack Area School District computers and 400 printers** were **infected with ransomware** and **pulled offline** in the **second cyber attack this year.**

Wallenpaupack, PA / *Sep 2019* / *Story*

Wakulla School District **email system was shut down for days** after a ransomware attack.

Wakulla, FL / *Sep 2019* / *Story*

A ransomware attack **forced Souderton Area School District to shut down their network.** Days after the attack, many files were still locked up.

Souderton, PA / *Sep 2019* / *Story*

Rockford Public Schools Dist. 205 were affected **by ransomware that affected their entire network, including wifi, PA systems, grading systems, and student databases and operation systems.**

Rockford, IL / *Sep 2019* / *Story*

Flagstaff Unified School District was **forced to cancel school** due to a ransomware attack. Their **campus entry, attendance and communication systems were all down, presenting a safety concern.**

Flagstaff, AZ / *Sep 2019* / *Story*

Monroe-Woodbury Central School District had to **delay the first day of school** due to a ransomware attack.

Orange, NY / *Sep 2019* / *Story*

Ransomware **locked up files** on the New Kent County Public Schools' internal hard drive.

New Kent, VA / *Aug 2019* / *Story*

Nampa School District was hit with **ransomware that affected Windows machines.** Teachers were left **without their online curricula.**

Nampa, ID / *Aug 2019* / *Story*

San Dieguito Union High School District had to **shut down parts of its network, including its parent portal,** for several days during registration due to a cyber attack.

Encintas, CA / *Aug 2019* / *Story*

Ransomware **shut down the entire Camp Verde Unified School District network.** It took **two weeks to get most of their systems running again,** causing delays in many administrative tasks.

Camp Verde, AZ / *Aug 2019* / *Story*

Broken Arrow Public Schools **experienced issues with their network and servers** due to a **ransomware attack.**

Broken Arrow**,** OK / *Aug 2019* / *Story*

Ransomware at Syracuse City School District caused a **week-log shutdown of their network.** The **ransom demand grew as days passed.**

Syracuse, NY / Jul 2019 / Story

The Watertown School District employees were **unable to access their network for days due to ransomware.**

Watertown, NY / Jul 2019 / Story

Tangipahoa Parish School System **shut down their network for a week due to ransomware.** It's possible that the **ransomware spread to the local sheriff's department through phishing.**

Tangipahoa, *LA / Jul 2019 / Story*

A **ransomware attack** affected New Haven Public Schools' network**.**

New Haven, CT / *Jul 2019* / *Story*

Monroe City School District had to **shut down their network** to scan for viruses after they were hit with **ransomware.**

Monroe, *LA / Jul 2019 / Story*

Avon School District's network was **shut down repeatedly over the course of six weeks** by hackers**.** Teaching and learning were stopped for a full day at least once**.**

Avon, CT / *Jul 2019* / *Story*

Houston County Schools were **forced to delay the first day of school twice** due to a **ransomware attack. School started almost two weeks later than planned.**

Houston, AL / Jul 2019 / Story

Data Breaches

Katy ISD **accidentally released the dates of birth and social security numbers** of its employees when responding to a routine request with an employee list spreadsheet.

Katy, TX / Dec 2019 / [Story](#)

Montgomery County Public Schools **suffered a "brute force attack" compromising personal information for thousands of students.** Compromised information included **name, date of birth, phone number, email address, GPA and other school related information**

Montgomery, MD / Nov 2019 / [Story](#)

Las Cruces Public Schools **accidentally emailed** a file containing the **social security numbers** of vendors to **150 employees.**

Las Cruces, NM / Nov 2019 / [Story](#)

A student **used a coding method to gain access to a portal containing student PII** to gain a competitive advantage in a game.

Downington, PA / Oct 2019 / [Story](#)

The Cincinnati School District **accidentally emailed** the following information for **7,000 students** to the wrong recipients: **student's first and last name, bus number, bus route, pickup and drop-off location, and possibly the time of pickup and drop-off.**

Cincinnati, OH / Aug 2019 / [Story](#)

Names and dates of birth for 18,000 Valley View School District students and names and email addresses for 1,700 staff members were compromised when a third-party service, Pearson, was breached.

Valley View, IL / Aug 2019 / [Story](#)

The **Pearson Clinical Assessment breach also affected 18,500 students and 1,100 employees** in the Bismarck School District.

Bismarck, ND / Aug 2019 / [Story](#)

A 15-year-old student **spearphished Riverside teachers** and used their login information to change grades.

Riverside, CA / Aug 2019 / [Story](#)

More than 24,000 current and former Greenville county students had their **names and birth dates compromised** by the Pearson breach.

Greenville, NC / Aug 2019 / [Story](#)

Shenandoah County Public Schools **student data was compromised** by the Pearson breach.

Shenandoah, VA / Jul 2019 / [Story](#)

Wallingford **student names, dates of birth, and email addresses were compromised** by the Pearson breach.

Wallingford, CT / Jul 2019 / [Story](#)

Financial Loss

Port Neches-Groves school officials **paid an undisclosed bitcoin ransom** after their systems were shut down through a ransomware attack.

Beaumont, TX / Nov 2019 / *Story*

The Tukwila school district fell victim to a **phishing scam** that may have involved a **significant amount of district funds**.

Tukwila, WA / Oct 2019 / Story

After being **unable to use resources such as power boards for weeks,** the Wyoming Area School District **paid $38,000 to release their systems from ransomware.**

Luzerne, PA / Oct 2019 / *Story*

Portland Public Schools fell victim to **a BEC wire transfer scam** that caused them send to **$2.9 million to a fraudulent account.** The scam was discovered quickly, and the district should be able to recover the entire amount.

Portland, OR / Aug 2019 / Story

Courtland High School had $**600,000 stolen in a vendor email compromise scam** related to the building of a new football field.

Spotsylvania, VA / Aug 2019 / Story

The Rockville Centre school district **paid $100,000 to decrypt files** that were locked up due to ransomware.

Rockville Centre, NY / Aug 2019 / Story

Lyon County School District **paid an undisclosed ransom** to restore files and phone services, **however lockouts to the network continued.**

Lyon, NV / Jul 2019 / *Story*