

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

Jul – Dec 2020

## Disruptions

**Online schooling organization K12** was **hit with ransomware** in back-office systems containing student data. The organization **paid the ransom** in the hopes that the student data will not be released.

Nationwide / Dec 2020 / [Story](#)

Gardiner Public Schools was the victim of a **ransomware attack**.

Gardiner, MO / Dec 2020 / [Story](#)

Huntsville City Schools **cancelled school and urged all users to power off devices and not to log on to the network** after they were hit with **ransomware**.

Huntsville, AL / Dec 2020 / [Story](#)

Weslaco ISD was attacked with ransomware and **virtual instruction was disrupted**.

Weslaco, TX / Dec 2020 / [Story](#)

A seventh-grade class was disrupted by a **zoombomber sharing pornography**.

South Amherst, OH / Dec 2020 / [Story](#)

A virus caused officials to **shut down the district's internal network**.

El Paso, TX / Dec 2020 / [Story](#)

Baltimore County Schools were **forced to close schools and shut down the network for several days** due to a "catastrophic" ransomware attack.

Baltimore, MD / Nov 2020 / [Story](#)

Oglethorpe County school district **cancelled school for two days** after a **ransomware attack locked up their network and phone systems**.

Oglethorpe, GA / Nov 2020 / [Story](#)

Mansfield schools were affected by a **Distributed Denial of Services (DDOS) attack** that affected staff and student access.

Mansfield, MA / Nov 2020 / [Story](#)

Students at an elementary school in Virginia Beach were subject to lewd pictures in a “zoom-bombing” during virtual instruction.

Virginia Beach, VA / Oct 2020 / [Story](#)

Springfield Public Schools were forced to shut down due to a ransomware attack.

Springfield, MA / Oct 2020 / [Story](#)

Toledo Public Schools suffered from a **DDoS attack** that **disrupted virtual classes** on the first day of school.

Toledo, OH / Sep 2020 / [Story](#)

A ransomware attack caused Hartford School District to **postpone the first day of school**.

Hartford, MA / Sep 2020 / [Story](#)

A DDoS attack caused **intermittent internet outages for a week**.

Lindenhurst, NY / Sep 2020 / [Story](#)

A DDoS attack caused **intermittent internet outages over a 24-hour period**.

Bayshore, NY / Sep 2020 / [Story](#)

A 13-year-old student was arrested for **hacking into the school's network** and **disconnecting students from their online classrooms**.

Valparaiso, IN / Sep 2020 / [Story](#)

School officials were **forced to scan, reimagine, wipe and reinstall Windows on every school device** after a ransomware attack.

Corpus Christi, TX / Sep 2020 / [Story](#)

**Virtual education was disrupted** by ransomware. Officials expected **full restoration to take several weeks**.

Floral Park, NY / Sep 2020 / [Story](#)

**Schools closed for two days due to ransomware**.

Bernardsville, NJ / Sep 2020 / [Story](#)

An unidentified user **entered a Google Meet virtual class** and **made racist and derogatory remarks**.

Chesterfield, VA / Sep 2020 / [Story](#)

A hacker **accessed a virtual classroom** and **made racist comments and shared pornographic images** with a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class.

Washington, PA / Sep 2020 / [Story](#)

A **DDoS attack on the district's web filtering software provider caused outages** on school and student devices.

Pickens, SC / Sep 2020 / [Story](#)

A high school student perpetrated a **DDoS attack on the district's network, disrupting virtual education.**

Miami, FL / Sep 2020 / [Story](#)

Some **systems on the network were locked** by a ransomware attack.

Taunton, MA / Sep 2020 / [Story](#)

Officials **shut down the network** due to a ransomware attack. Systems were restored quickly, but the **district failed to notify parents in a timely manner.**

Mansfield, OH / Sep 2020 / [Story](#)

A **DDoS attack disrupted internet service and online learning.**

Elkhart, IN / Aug 2020 / [Story](#)

**Distance learning was cancelled for at least two days** due to a ransomware attack.

Waynesville, NC / Aug 2020 / [Story](#)

The **first day of school was postponed by three days** due to a ransomware attack.

Ponca, OK / Aug 2020 / [Story](#)

A district parent meeting was **zoombombed and cut short.**

Rochester, NY / Aug 2020 / [Story](#)

A cyber attack **affected internet connectivity and other systems for two days.**

New Palestine, IN / Aug 2020 / [Story](#)

The **district website was down for three days due to a DDoS attack on its vendor.**

Hudson, TX / Aug 2020 / [Story](#)

A **zoombomber shared profane and explicit content** during a Parent Teacher Student Organization meeting.

Las Cruces, NM / Jul 2020 / [Story](#)

## Data Breaches

A **burglary of a portable USB** led to the **compromise of employee social security numbers**.

*Helena, MT / Dec 2020 / [Story](#)*

A teacher's **email account was hacked** and **used to send out offensive and harassing emails** to students and others in the community.

*Skokie, IL / Nov 2020 / [Story](#)*

Two high school students **accessed the names and social security numbers** of students in the district.

*Sherman, TX / Nov 2020 / [Story](#)*

Township High School District 211's **communication system was hacked** and **lewd emails, text messages, and phone calls** were disseminated.

*Palatine, IL / Nov 2020 / [Story](#)*

Two Westchester school districts were **compromised by ransomware** and forced to **restore data from back-ups**.

*Westchester, NY / Oct 2020 / [Story](#)*

Hackers **stole and released 9GB of data** including **names, addresses, dates of birth, phone numbers, and social security numbers** belonging to **faculty, staff, and students**.

*Toledo, OH / Oct 2020 / [Story](#)*

**Hackers stole and released personal information such as employee names, social security numbers and some health information.**

*Fairfax, VA / Oct 2020 / [Story](#)*

There was a **breach of a district financial account**.

*Waynesboro, MS / Oct 2020 / [Story](#)*

An **issue with a third-party app, SchoolMessenger, allowed parents to see the names, email, and phone numbers of other parents and students** in the district.

*Mount Diablo, CA / Sep 2020 / [Story](#)*

Personal information of **current and former staff and students** such as **names, social security numbers, and state ID numbers** were **potentially compromised** due to a network intrusion.

*Park Hills, MO / Sep 2020 / [Story](#)*

A glitch with a third-party vendor, EdGear, caused a text message containing **login information for one of 86 students to be sent to 42,000 families**.

*Harvey, LA / Aug 2020 / [Story](#)*

## Financial Loss

Sheldon ISD paid **\$207K in ransom** after a ransomware attack that **locked their email, data, and security systems**.

Sheldon, TX / Oct 2020 / [Story](#)

Athens ISD paid a **\$50K ransom** to **unencrypt their servers and backup systems** after a ransomware attack.

Athens, TX / Jul 2020 / [Story](#)