NYSED Privacy Office Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

JANUARY 24 - 28, 2022

Dear Data Protection Officers,

This special edition of the NYSED Privacy Office Newsletter celebrates that Data Privacy Day has grown into Data Privacy Week—January 24 – 28, 2022. The themes for Data Privacy Week are, for individuals, "Own Your Privacy" and for organizations "Respect Privacy."

As we know, Education Law § 2-d strengthens the privacy protections afforded to student personally identifiable information ("Student PII") and teacher and principal APPR data ("APPR Data"). Data Privacy Week should serve as a reminder that, as individuals and organizations, we must remain vigilant when we work with any personal information, regardless of whether the information is Student PII, APPR Data or information about you or your family.

To that end, in this digitally-based world, it is never too early to begin to teach children about data and their privacy. As we continue to engage students in both traditional and virtual classrooms, the need to provide them with the knowledge and skills to grow as digital citizens is imperative. In this newsletter, NYSED's Privacy Office includes links to some of the many tools available to schools. Each tool has been reviewed and a determination made that they do not collect Student PII.

For students in grades 3 through 8, one fun and imaginative tool is the FBI's Online Surfing Internet Challenge (https://sos.fbi.gov/en/). Consider having your school district join Hancock Central School District's Middle/High Schools by taking this challenge.

As of January 14, 2022 Hancock Central School District's Middle/High Schools are the top starfish category participant in the nation. Congratulations Hancock Central School District!

Disclaimer: Instructional decisions, including methods, tools, curriculum, and resources utilized, are a local decision. The resources listed here are provided as options and examples only, in an attempt to provide helpful information. NYSED does not require,

Tools to Help Students grow as Cyber Citizens

In addition to the FBI's website, the following tools and activities are available for your schools to celebrate Data Privacy Week that will help them become better cyber citizens.

Google Digital Literacy & Citizenship Curriculum presented by iKeepSafe.org provides students with the opportunity to discuss privacy and staying safe online.

Commonsense.org provides a Digital Citizenship Curriculum, as well as student games to schools at no charge.

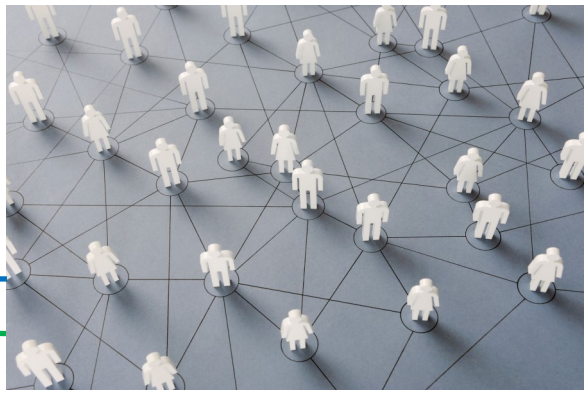
Google hosts Be Internet Awesome, which provides free tools, including the Interland game, to schools to help students learn about online safety.

Additional Privacy Week Activities:

For Individuals:

- Keep It Private
- Understand the privacy/convenience tradeoff
- Manage your privacy
- Protect your data

For additional information, visit Stay Safe Online.



For Educational Agencies:

- Educate Employees about their responsibilities
- Educate Parents about their rights
- Ask one or more third party vendors for a current risk assessment
- Conduct a risk assessment of your educational agency's network

K-12 Cybersecurity Curriculum Standards

The New York State K-12 Computer Science and Digital Fluency Learning Standards vision is that every student will know how to live productively and safely in a technology-dominated world. This includes understanding the essential features of digital technologies, why and how they work, and how to communicate and create using those technologies.

There are several concept areas within the standards that focus on increasing cyber awareness and digital citizenship. The Cybersecurity standards prepare students to understand why data and computing resources need to be protected, who might access them, and why they might do so whether intentionally malicious or not. The standards and accompanying resources are available on NYSED's Office of Curriculum and Instruction's webpage under Computer Science and Digital Fluency.

Follow up from our January Newsletter

In our January newsletter, we discussed data breaches and incidents. Verizon recently published data breach information for 2021.

According to the Verizon 2021 Data Breach Investigations Report (the "Report") that reviewed 29,207 incidents that occurred in 2021, the education industry experienced 1,332 incidents, 344 of which had confirmed data disclosure. The Verizon 2021 Data Breach Investigations Report can be viewed at https://www.verizon.com/dbir.

For incidents with confirmed data disclosure, the Report found that 96% of the threat actors were motivated by financial reasons. While 80% of the threat actors were external, 20% were internal threat actors. Social engineering accounted for 50% of the incidents with confirmed data disclosure, with pretexting accounting for over 80% of the 164 incidents. The majority of the remaining 20% of the incidents are attributable to phishing.

We hope the information in this newsletter is of assistance to our DPOs.