

May 7, 2025

Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Parents, Staff and Community Members,

Our District is experiencing a security breach resulting from a ransomware attack. Yesterday, our Technology Department identified a ransomware attack on our network and computer systems. Our technology team worked through the night to shut down systems, contain the threat, and limit damage. The District is actively working with cybersecurity experts to assess and contain the situation. Unfortunately, despite the security systems in place the cyber attackers infiltrated the network and compromised some areas of our systems.

The District is taking careful steps to rectify the situation and address the security breach. We have notified the New Jersey Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Cell (NJCCIC) and are following directions from local and state authorities.

We took the following immediate actions that all families should be aware of:

- 1. The district is in the process of changing its web address to <u>www.frsd.us</u>. Please use the new web address to access our website. Our website will be down while the transition is completed. We appreciate your patience.
- 2. The phone line difficulties we experienced today are part of the technology issues we are addressing. When calling a school office, please dial 0 (zero) when you hear an error message. All schools are receiving email messages.
- 3. We alerted all staff to change their passwords and to limit use of technology in the district. (Day 1 of required state testing for Grades 5 and 8 in science was completed today.)

Parents should not be worried about the District's security breach affecting students' home networks. The security breach is centralized to Flemington-Raritan Regional School District's private network. Our student information system, Genesis, is not affected by the security breach thus private student information is protected. Students' Chromebooks use a different operating system than the District's systems, therefore they are not impacted by District-related issues and will not affect home networks.

We understand that parents may have questions about the information shared in this letter. Our students may also have questions about why they are not using computers in school today and tomorrow. This is to keep traffic on our network to a minimum. This unfortunate event presents a learning opportunity for students about internet safety. The New Jersey Department of Education provides <u>safety tips for parents and caregivers about phishing and unsafe downloads</u>. Please take the opportunity to talk with your child.

We will continue to update our school community as the District receives information and support from state and local partners. Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff and schools.

Sincerely, Kari McGann, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

Strategic Goals:

Goal Area #1: The District will provide a comprehensive and rigorous educational experience that connects and expands students' knowledge while engaging and empowering all learners to synthesize and apply their skills and understandings in meaningful ways. **Goal Area #2:** Develop a continuation of a multi-tiered system of support within the district to target the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students.

Goal Area #3: The district will create opportunities to foster unity between the community and the school district in order to strengthen partnerships and develop a shared responsibility for student success.

Goal Area #4: Create an enticing and competitive work environment to attract and retain high-quality candidates representative of students' diverse backgrounds in the Flemington Raritan Regional School District community.

Goal Area #5: Ensure the finance and facilities needs are budgeted to upkeep and meet the needs of the growing district.