

**TOPIC:        *Confirmed Canvas Cybersecurity Incident - Notification***

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HCPS Families,

This letter is to inform you of a cybersecurity incident impacting Instructure, the parent company of Canvas, a learning management system used by students currently or previously enrolled in North Carolina Virtual Public Schools (NCVPS) courses at Henderson County Public Schools.

Instructure reached out to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction last week to notify them of a cybersecurity incident perpetrated by a criminal threat actor. Last Thursday, users logging into Canvas saw a message from the threat actor responsible for compromising Instructure. The message appeared to Canvas users nationwide, including those affiliated with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) and several North Carolina public school units.

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) is working with Instructure to determine what information may have been accessible within Canvas. Data could include: Username, UID Identification number, first name, last name, email address. The following data sets may have been enabled by some schools: phone number (if enabled by school), pronouns (if enabled by customer), IP address, assessment results, messages and submitted assignments.

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) has implemented all available mitigation measures for our schools. Out of an abundance of caution and to help protect North Carolina schools and data, access to Canvas through NCEdCloud was temporarily disabled for all North Carolina students and staff.

Over the past weekend, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) received an interim assessment from CrowdStrike, the third-party cybersecurity firm advising on the incident. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) has been informed by Instructure that the Canvas environment throughout the nation and here in North Carolina has no ongoing signs of compromise.

As a result, NCDPI restored statewide connectivity with Canvas on Monday, May 11, at approximately 4 p.m.

Henderson County Public Schools takes the security of student and educator data seriously. We will continue working along NCDPI to coordinate with partners to monitor the situation and assess any potential impact.

For a timeline of events, as well as the latest updates from Instructure, visit the company's incident status page at <https://status.instructure.com>.

Thank you for your support as we work to keep our student and educator data secure.