MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

20 ASHBURTON PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

(617) 742.7950/1.800.392.6175
FAX: (617) 248.6921

GENERAL COUNSEL
ANN CLARKE

STAFF COUNSEL
BRIAN A. RILEY
AMERICO A. SALINI, JR
SUSAN LEE WEISSINGER
IRA C. FADER
SANDRA C. QUINN
MATTHEW D. JONES
RICHARD A. MULLANE
WILL EVANS

**BY CERTIFIED MAIL**

September 5, 2008

Attorney General Martha Coakley
Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Attorney General Coakley:

I represent the Braintree Education Association (BEA). Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 93H, I am writing to notify you of a potential breach of security of personal information that may have occurred in connection with the 2005-2006 and the 2006-2007 BEA membership lists, respectively. This breach involves up to 614 Massachusetts residents. The facts, as I understand them, are as follows:

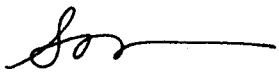
On or about Thursday, August 28, 2008, the Cybercrime Unit of the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council informed Peter Kurzberg, the Superintendent of Schools of Braintree, and Larry Kramer, the BEA president, that, on or about August 21, 2008, a vendor had discovered a list of names, addresses, telephone numbers, employee identification numbers and social security numbers of Braintree school employees. This data was included on the 2005-2006 and the 2006-2007 BEA membership lists and was in electronic form. The Cybercrime Unit has investigated this potential breach and believes the breach occurred between 2006 and 2008. There is no evidence currently that any identity theft or fraudulent activity has occurred.

There are 614 school employees, in the aggregate, on the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 membership lists. On September 4, 2008, the BEA sent a notice by certified mail to the individuals on these membership lists informing them of the potential security breach. A copy of the notice is attached hereto.

Upon discovering the potential breach, representatives of the BEA immediately contacted its parent organization, the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA). The MTA located an expert in the field of data security and security forensics to assist in the investigation and in determining the source of the breach and to offer guidance in preventing future problems. The MTA also assisted the BEA in preparing the attached notification to its members.

Finally, I have attached a notice that I sent to the Director of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation. If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Very truly yours,



Sandra C. Quinn

Encl:

cc: Lawrence Kramer
Dorine Levasseur

180688

# BRAINTREE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

**C/0 Braintree High School, Rm. 109**

**128 Town St., Braintree, MA 02184**


September 4, 2008

Dear

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 93H, I am writing to notify you of possible breach of security of your personal information that may have been included in BEA membership lists for 2005-2006 and 2006-2007.

**First, let me say that as President and on behalf of the BEA, I deeply regret that this has occurred and sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this causes you. Please be assured that the BEA has acted diligently to minimize any adverse consequences to you from this potential breach. Upon discovering the potential breach, the BEA immediately contacted the Massachusetts Teachers Association. The MTA located an expert in the field of data security and security forensics to assist in the investigation of the breach and to offer guidance in preventing future problems.**

Please read the following carefully as it will help you to protect yourself from such an occurrence.

Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. If you are the victim of identity theft, you also have the right to file a police report and obtain a copy of it.

Massachusetts law also allows consumers to place a security freeze on their credit reports. A security freeze prohibits a credit reporting agency from releasing any information from a consumer's credit report without written authorization. However, please be aware that placing a security freeze on your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prevent the timely approval of any requests you make for new loans, credit mortgages, employment, housing or other services.

If you have been a victim of identity theft, and you provide the credit reporting agency with a valid police report, it cannot charge you to place, lift or remove a security freeze. In all other cases, a credit reporting agency may charge you up to $5.00 each to place, temporarily lift, or permanently remove a security freeze. In this case, where there may have been a breach but there *is currently no evidence of* identity theft, the charge may apply. Check the websites of the reporting agencies for their requirements.

To place a security freeze on your credit report, you must send a written request

to each of the three major consumer reporting agencies: Equifax (www.equifax.com); Experian (www.experian.com); and TransUnion (www.transunion.com) by regular, certified or overnight mail at the addresses below:

Equifax Security
Freeze P.O. Box
105788 Atlanta,
GA 30348

Experian Security
Freeze P.O. Box
9554
Allen, TX 75013

Trans Union Security Freeze
Fraud Victim Assistance
Department P.O. Box 6790
Fullerton, CA 92834

In order to request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

1. Your full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
2. Social Security Number and date of birth
3. If you have moved in the past five (5) years, provide the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years;
4. Proof of current address such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
5. A legible photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.)
6. If you are a victim of identity theft, include a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft;
7. If you are not a victim of identity theft, include payment by check, money order, or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover only). Do not send cash through the mail.

The credit reporting agencies have three (3) business days after receiving your request to place a security freeze on your credit report. The credit bureaus must also send written confirmation to you within five (5) business days and provide you with a unique personal identification number (PIN) or password, or both that can be used by you to authorize the removal or lifting of the security freeze.

To lift the security freeze in order to allow a specific entity or individual access to your credit report, you must call or send a written request to the credit reporting agencies by mail and include proper identification (name, address, and social security number) and the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze as well as the identities of those entities or individuals you would like to receive your credit report or the specific period of time you want the credit report available. The credit reporting agencies have three (3) business days after receiving your request to lift the security freeze for those identified entities or for the specified period of time.

To remove the security freeze, you must send a written request to each of the three credit bureaus by mail and include proper identification (name, address, and social security number) and the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze. The credit bureaus have three (3) business days after receiving your request to remove the security freeze.

In addition to taking the above steps, the following are other actions you may

consider taking to protect yourself from identity fraud or other credit fraud:

1. place fraud alerts on your credit file;
2. review your credit reports for unexplained activity (remember that you are entitled to one free credit report per year from each of the credit reporting agencies); and
3. review credit card or other financial accounts for any suspicious and/or unauthorized activity

Again, the BEA deeply regrets that this occurred, is taking all steps necessary to notify our members of steps they can take to protect their identity information and is taking all measures possible to protect member information so that this never happens again.

If you should have any further questions, please contact me at the address above or at my home phone number: 781-545-5704.

Sincerely,

Larry Kramer, President

Braintree Education Association