



February 25, 2022

Dear District Administrators:

Due to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, including the use of targeted cyberattacks, I am writing to alert you to the need for increased diligence regarding your district's cybersecurity.

While there are no specific threats to Wisconsin systems at this time, we have learned from experience that cybercriminals often capitalized on crises like this one to launch their own cyberattacks. These usually take the form of phishing emails, ransomware attacks, and the targeting of unpatched systems.

To protect your district from these cyberattacks, please take these precautions:

- Alert your staff of the likelihood of increased phishing emails. Use this as an opportunity to reiterate next steps if a staff member does receive a suspicious email.
- Alert your staff of the likelihood of opportunistic sales or services offering increased security measures.
- Watch for anything unusual in your systems. Please report any abnormalities.
- If you have unpatched systems, limit access to them and ensure all systems are up to date with patches.

If you detect an incident, please contact the state Cyber Response Team immediately at crt@wisconsin.gov or 800-943-0003 Ext 2 (calls answered 24/7). For follow-up questions to this letter, please contact Ed Snow, Assistant Director of Instructional Technology Services, at Edward.Snow@dpi.wi.gov.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your diligence in protecting our systems, schools, and students in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,
Tessa Michaelson Schmidt
Tessa Michaelson Schmidt
Assistant State Superintendent
Division for Libraries and Technology