



**Olga Hugelmeyer**  
Superintendent of Schools

March 20, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Elizabeth Public Schools prides itself not only on providing high quality instruction and a rigorous curriculum, but also promoting high expectations and social and intellectual wellness that lead students to make sound decisions that positively affect their futures.

Though we strongly encourage our students to take responsible actions, sometimes they make choices that are not reflective of our guiding principles. Unfortunately, a number of our students have made some poor choices by participating, to varying degrees, in compromising our student information system to manipulate attendance and classroom grades. We take seriously our responsibility to gather and store your information. Therefore, our Department of Information Technology has analyzed our student data records to better understand the access gained by the students involved to further clarify the extent of the data compromise that has taken place. Additionally, the Elizabeth Public Schools has contacted law enforcement authorities.

As we have often stated, our highest priority is the welfare of our students, including meeting their educational needs and providing safe learning environments in which they can reach their full potential. We also have a responsibility to you, the parents and guardians of our students. The Department of Information Technology has determined at this time it appears that a half dozen students made unauthorized access at various high schools.

The consequences for the individual(s) who lead the data compromise are likely to be severe. Due to student privacy laws, we're restricted from disclosing more information but we can assure you that we are working within the full extent of the law and our Student Code of Conduct Board policy.

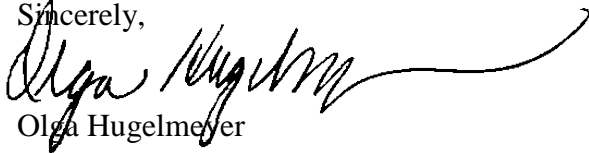
Make no mistake, today is a sad day for Elizabeth Public Schools. Our students take a pledge each day to, among other things, understand that the school community is a "special place", inspire the best in oneself and others, and to care about others. These actions in no manner reflect what we teach or represent who we are. We want to become one of the highest performing urban school districts in the nation, and that high performance includes both academic achievement and moral character.

**Office of the Superintendent of Schools**

Finally, as a mother, my heart aches for the parents of the students involved who will be learning a very difficult lesson. The road to success will likely become much longer for these students who chose to trade the unlimited promise of the future for fleeting gains in the present. This will undoubtedly be a challenging time for those parents and I hope you will join me in supporting them and keeping them in your thoughts through this trying time. As Superintendent, I'm personally saddened and embarrassed by this discovery, but am also very determined and committed to address this issue and continue our support of every student and providing them the innovative and personalized learning environment in which they can achieve excellence and fulfill their dreams.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and for the support of Elizabeth Public Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Olga Hugelmeyer", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Olga Hugelmeyer