

Dear VPS Employees,

Washington State has become a target of fraudulent unemployment claims. Vancouver Public Schools has received numerous reports from employees who have received notice in the mail that an unemployment claim was filed when they did not personally do so.

This is a state-wide issue that may be associated with past breaches of data security in large company systems (e.g. Premera, Target, Equifax). There is no evidence that this is the result of a compromise of VPS systems. If you received notice of an unemployment claim in the mail, please read the following information and take steps to protect your personal information and identity.

Another way to see if a possible fraudulent claim has been filed under your name is to log onto your [Secure Access Washington account](#). This is the same login that you used to enroll for SEBB insurance benefits. When you log in, you must verify your identity and will be able to see if your social security number is linked to another email account.

Please note – this email is being sent to all VPS employees. It does not mean that a fraudulent claim has been filed under your name. We want all employees to be aware of this possibility so that you can take steps, if needed, to protect your personal information.

If you believe that someone has applied for unemployment benefits using your information:

- Promptly file a report with the Employment Security Department (ESD). View detailed instructions and a fraud reporting form at <https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment/unemployment-benefits-fraud>.
- Send an email to the benefits office at hrbenefits@vansd.org with “unemployment” in the subject line.

Additionally, ESD recommends the following steps:

- Go to the Attorney General’s [Recovering from identity theft or fraud web page](#) and follow the instructions.
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) online at identitytheft.gov or call 877-ID-THEFT.
- File a police report. Get a copy of the report to submit to your creditors and others that may require proof of the crime.
- Place a fraud alert on your credit reports and review your credit reports periodically to ensure no new fraudulent activity has occurred.
- Close accounts that you know or believe have been improperly accessed or fraudulently opened.
- Request free credit reports via annualcreditreport.com and review them for other fraudulent activities.
- Start a file with all related correspondence. Document the date, time, and person spoken with for all related phone calls.

Please take care and stay well,

Kathy Everidge, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources