

Los Angeles Unified School District investigates data theft claims

By **Sergiu Gatlan**



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06:44 PM



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Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) officials are investigating a threat actor's claims that they're selling stolen databases containing records belonging to millions of students and thousands of teachers.

LAUSD is the second largest public school district in the United States, with over 25,900 teachers, roughly 48,700 other employees, and more than 563,000 students enrolled [during the 2023-2024 school year](#).

The threat actor selling the allegedly stolen data for \$1,000 says the CSV files put up for sale on a hacking forum contain over 11GB of data, as first spotted by [Dark Web Informer](#). These files are said to include over 26 million records with student

information, more than 24,000 teacher records, and around 500 containing staff information.

They also shared two data samples containing roughly 1,000 student records with Social Security Numbers (SSNs), addresses, parent addresses, email addresses, contact information, and dates of birth as proof that the information was legitimate.


Researchers who analyzed these samples told BleepingComputer that the sold data appears legitimate but could be old, as the dataset does not include recent dates. However, the threat actor only shared a small sample of the allegedly stolen data, so there may be new information that has yet to be shared.

BleepingComputer contacted LAUSD earlier today to confirm the threat actor's claims and was told that the public school district is investigating. After the article was published, the school district sent a follow-up statement saying that law enforcement had also been informed and is now helping with the investigation.

"Los Angeles Unified has become aware of an account from a malicious actor purporting to offer certain district data for sale," an LAUSD spokesperson told BleepingComputer.

"The District is investigating the claim and engaging with law enforcement to investigate and respond to the incident. As always, we prioritize the privacy of our students, families and employees."

LAUSD / Los Angeles Unified School District / 24M+
by Satanik - Thursday June 6, 2024 at 02:59 PM



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LAUSD.org - Los Angeles Unified School District
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Unified_School_District

FILES:

.STUDENTS DB 24M - CSV 10GB

.STUDENTS MASTER DB 2.4M - CSV 1GB

.TEACHERS DB 24K - CSV 17MB

.SCHOOL/LOCATION DB 31K+ - CSV 28MB

.STAFF 500+ - CSV 56KB

MASTER STUDENTS SAMPLE.csv	6/6/2024 7:49 AM	CSV File	16 KB
STUDENT SAMPLE.csv	6/6/2024 7:48 AM	CSV File	415 KB
STUDENT_DEMOGRAPHICS_MASTER.csv	6/6/2024 7:27 AM	CSV File	984,083 KB
TEACHER_DEMOGRAPHICS_MASTER.csv	6/6/2024 7:23 AM	CSV File	17,244 KB
MEAL_SUMMARY.csv	6/6/2024 7:21 AM	CSV File	271 KB
GRADUATION_PROGRESS_TRACKING.csv	6/6/2024 7:20 AM	CSV File	2,322 KB
SCHOOL_LOCATION.csv	6/6/2024 7:18 AM	CSV File	28,329 KB
STAFF.csv	6/6/2024 7:16 AM	CSV File	56 KB
STUDENT.csv	6/6/2024 6:37 AM	CSV File	9,993,712 KB

SAMPLES:

STUDENTS DB:

STUDENTS MA

PRICE: 1k\$

Telegram: @dark

Alleged LAUSD stolen data for sale online (BleepingComputer)

Vice Society ransomware attack

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LAUSD was [also hit](#) by a ransomware attack in September 2022, over the Labor Day weekend. The Vice Society gang claimed the breach, saying they also stole 500GB of files before encrypting the district's systems.

On the day LAUSD disclosed the incident, the FBI, CISA, and MS-ISAC also issued a joint advisory warning that [Vice Society was disproportionately targeting education organizations](#).

After the attack, LAUSD asked all employees (including teachers, support staff, and administrators) and students [to reset their @LAUSD.net account credentials](#) in person at a district site and expedited the rollout of multi-factor authentication.

Almost one month after the attack, [Vice Society published the stolen LAUSD data](#) on their dark web leak site, including what a law enforcement source described as "confidential psychological assessments of students, contract and legal documents, business records, and numerous database entries."

The leak came after the district [announced](#) that it would not pay the ransom demanded by the ransomware gang because it wouldn't guarantee the full recovery of data and "public dollars are better spent on our students."

It is unclear at this time if the data currently being sold on the hacking forum is linked to the data stolen by Vice Society.

Update June 07, 11:29 EDT: Added LAUSD statement.

DATA BREACH

DATA LEAK

DATA THEFT

LAUSD

LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED





SERGIU GATLAN

Sergiu is a news reporter who has covered the latest cybersecurity and technology developments for over a decade. Email or Twitter DMs for tips.

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