

ELEMENTARY

Cheney Hills

1. There is a concern that TEAMS phone system uses our employee ID number as our phone extension. I understand this is a district internal number. The concern is that we were asked to watch and pass a video concerning cybersecurity. In this video it talks about keeping numbers and passwords confidential. My concern and I believe others is that our employee ID number is linked to so many things that are personal and confidential in the district. We used this number as part of our log-in to programs we use throughout the district. The number is linked to our benefits/payroll and many other forms of personal information.

How can we be sure our information is secure and will not be breached by using this as a way to identify us on a phone/message system?

- A. No one can get into anything of yours with that number. A password is required and the number one way to ensure information is secure is protect your passwords and not share them with others. We require passwords that are at least 16 characters long and encourage them to be difficult to guess.

Another way to ensure our information is secure is Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) which is rolling out now across the district. In addition to someone knowing your Username (Employee ID) and your password with MFA, they also have to have another piece of evidence one of your credentials when logging into your account. According to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), credentials fall into any of three categories:

1. Something you know (like a password or PIN#)
2. Something you have (like a cell phone)
3. Something you are (like your fingerprint)

Your credentials must come from two different categories to enhance security, so entering two different passwords would not be considered multi-factor.

In Birdville, like most school districts and educational institutions, we focus on your username/password as one authentication factor, and an authenticator app/text message code on your cell phone as a second factor.

MFA helps protect by adding a layer of security, making it harder for bad guys to log in as you, even if they know your employee ID number and your password. MFA is now required by the D

Most people are already familiar with MFA and have it set up with their banks, online shopping websites, and social media accounts.

If you get an MFA request on your cell phone that you did not do something to initiate, contact Technology ASAP and change your password(s).

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Porter

2. Since we have a two-week window for STAAR testing, would the district please consider spacing out the testing days for elementary students? Testing 3 days in a row can cause anxiety as well as make students weary by the last day, so they are not able to do their best. Please also consider that students are not testing on paper anymore, so this means up to 4 hours of screen time for 3 days in a row. Teachers and students are both held accountable for STAAR scores, so we would appreciate the district doing everything in its power to create the best testing environment possible.

A. We have discussed this in the past with key stakeholders. The response has always been the same, which is to keep the window as is (first week of testing). The three days of testing only impacts 5th graders, as writing for 4th grade has been removed. The first week of the window was for paper only and we only recently decided to move completely online starting in 2021-22. If we extend the **window**, this creates a timeline of two weeks where we must test all children for the applicable assessments. For example, if a student was absent in week one, we would administer all applicable grade-level assessments the following week. one. There is potential for results to be delayed if we use both weeks of the window, which could impact HB

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