

Dear Parent or Guardian of [Name]:

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) first learned in the *New York Times* on August 19 that FCPS student data had been inadvertently compromised. FCPS contacted The Princeton Review team after reading the article and was able to talk with them about the matter on August 19.

According to The Princeton Review, the data was inadvertently placed on an open website by an internet service provider under contract to them. The Princeton Review received the information from FCPS as part of a SOL practice test program for students in grades 3-8; the contract between The Princeton Review and FCPS has ended for other reasons.

On August 19, The Princeton Review acknowledged their responsibility, and issued the following statement to the media:

Media Statement by The Princeton Review – 8.19.08

"We devote a lot of attention to the security of our data, and have extensive procedures in place to manage this process. On Monday, we were advised that some information which had been kept safe and secure may have inadvertently been accessible to highly sophisticated computer users. A preliminary investigation, launched as soon as we were made aware of this problem, suggests that this occurred due to a breakdown in our normal data security protocols when web hosting was recently migrated to a new provider. The investigation will include the retention of a forensic accounting and security team to review the incident and evaluate our security policy and procedures. We have apologized to our customers for this situation, and assured them that access to the information has been closed, and that we are working diligently to put in place any needed remedies to make certain this problem does not recur."

On Wednesday evening, August 21, The Princeton Review returned the compromised files to FCPS. The files were exposed from June 28 to August 18 and included student and teacher information. Based on FCPS analysis of these files, data from the school year 2005-2006 for 75,559 students and 3,157 teachers were exposed. The exposed student data included FCPS student ID number, student first and last name and student date of birth. Note that student Social Security numbers were NOT included in any of the data files.

Although your student's information was included in files that were subject to compromise by this incident, we have no reason to believe that this incident poses any threat to your student and do not believe that you need to take any action. If you have questions, you may call The Princeton Review at 1-800-955-4600 Monday – Friday between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM Eastern Time beginning Monday afternoon, August 25th.

Sincerely,

Jack D. Dale

Division Superintendent
Fairfax County Public Schools