February 10, 2015

Dear LAUSD Employees:

Analysis of the recent security breach of Anthem Blue Cross indicates that hackers could have obtained enough data to reset LAUSD employee passwords. As a precaution, our technicians have blocked access to our automated password reset tool from outside the LAUSD network. This effort will greatly reduce the chances of cybercriminals’ posing as LAUSD employees and making unauthorized changes to their accounts.

At this point, we do not have reason to believe that any employee’s account has been compromised as a result of the recent security breach; however, for the safety of LAUSD’s systems and information, we would like to err on the side of caution. If you have reason to believe someone may have tampered with your account (for example, your password suddenly stopped working), please contact the IT HelpDesk immediately to report the issue.

Meanwhile, we encourage all our employees to continue using best practices in cyber security, including the following:

1) Change your password regularly, and use strong passwords (i.e., long passwords with combinations of numbers, letters, and special characters that are difficult to guess).

2) Use different passwords for different accounts - be sure you do not use your LAUSD password for other accounts you have (e.g., online banking, medical services, or social networking sites).

For more information regarding Anthem Blue Cross' data breach, visit their dedicated website, read their FAQs or call 877-263-7995. Anthem will send information via U.S. Postal Service offering free credit monitoring services for all members. BEWARE OF SPAM EMAIL!

Remember: cyber safety starts with you. Learn more at: achieve.lausd.net/cybersafe.

Sincerely,

Ramon C. Cortines
Superintendent of Schools