

BACK TO SCHOOL AND SCAMS

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"Back to School" Cybersecurity Style

August marks the start of back-to-school preparation, not only for College and K-12, but for state employees too. Annual mandatory security awareness training starts on August 15 for State and K-12 employees. The 2022 training is informative, interesting and should only take about 20 minutes to complete. The deadline for completion is November 23, 2022.

Greater protection NOW for your sensitive personal information my.Delaware.gov Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) is ON!

Here are just a few of the benefits of your my.delaware.gov account:

- You only need to setup MFA factors on your first use, once set up, you do not have to re-enter while you are within the state network.
- You have the option to remember your home computer and its browser for 180 days.
- my.delaware.gov will ask for MFA when you are in new location, out of state or out of the country, reducing the possibility that your identity can be imitated.
- my.Delaware.gov will alert you to someone trying to get into your applications, trying to reset your password or do something suspicious against your account.

School Yourself Against These Scams

With the start of classes right around the corner, students and parents will soon be hitting the stores (both in person and virtually) to prepare for the new school year. Unfortunately, scammers know that many are looking for discounts particularly during these tough economic times, and they are eager to give you their version of a "great deal."

Here are some scams to watch out for:

Supply Shopping - Criminals set up phony websites offering low-cost school supplies. When consumers enter their credit card information and complete their purchases, the items they order never arrive. The Scammers now have their credit card information and use to rack up unauthorized purchases. **When buying supplies online, only visit websites of reputable brands whose names you recognize.** If you are visiting an unknown brand or site online, be wary if this company is offering supplies at far lower prices than other competitors.

Others send phishing emails to students and parents saying that they missed a delivery of school supplies. These emails request that the recipients click on a link to reschedule the delivery. That link either floods victims' computers with malware or sends them to websites that request their personal and payment information.

Textbooks - Before buying books online make sure you're dealing with a real company. Consumers have provided personal payment information to fake sites that never send the books. Others have tried to rent books and never received them. It's a good idea to research websites online before sending money. The Better Business Bureau advises exercising caution when dealing with book sales on Craigslist, Offer Up, LetGo and other third party marketplaces.

Scholarships - In one type of scholarship scam, criminals ask for an application fee. While the fee might only be \$25, if they hook enough people, the profits can add up. **Legitimate scholarships don't require application fees.**

Another version is an email or text indicating that you have won a scholarship, even if you don't remember applying. But before you can collect this free money, you have to pay a redemption or disbursement fee. Again, red flag warning of a scam. **Legitimate scholarships don't require fees to receive your money.**

Other scammers offer fake scholarship search services. They send texts or emails offering to find scholarships for you, for a fee. And if you don't receive one, they'll refund

- You have full control to unlock or reset your own password.

Kicking off national Cybersecurity Awareness Month in October is the **Secure Delaware** conference on October 4. This full day, free event will be held at the University of Delaware's Clayton Hall in Newark. **Secure Delaware** has sessions for all levels of technical knowledge, from the simply curious to IT professionals and small business owners.

For more information on **Secure Delaware** visit: [Cyber Security in Delaware - DigiKnow](#)

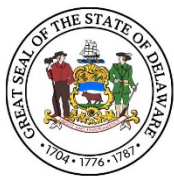
Solomon Adote
Chief Security Officer

your fee. Once you send your money, these 'search companies' typically disappear.

Always remember when online, "**if it seems too good to be true, IT IS.**" The best defense is security awareness and research.

Information sourced from: Norton Security

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