



FCPS Audit Report: 23-1002 – IT Cybersecurity Audit

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Office of Auditor General

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The Office of Auditor General's (OAG) completed the performance audit of IT Cybersecurity in accordance with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 audit plan approved by the Fairfax County School Board. This audit covered Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) IT cybersecurity function and operations from July 1, 2021 through March 31, 2023.

The objectives of this audit were to:

1. Assess the sufficiency in monitoring the security of FCPS' IT network, both schools and non-school based environment,
2. Evaluate compliance with applicable FCPS' policies and regulations, and their reasonableness and applicability in the current IT environment,
3. Determine if the Department of Technology processes are aligned with leading practices to manage network security to protect the information they hold, and
4. Determine opportunities for employees' awareness of IT security and evaluate the effectiveness.

Today's cybersecurity threat environment has increased the need for cybersecurity plans that enable the organization to continually protect the availability, integrity, and confidentiality of information as well as the identities of FCPS staff and students. Understanding information systems controls is important when information systems are used extensively throughout the program. Areas of potential risk include potential cyber-attacks; loss of confidential information; lack of long-term planning; lack of guidance from leadership; and ineffective practices and monitoring of critical operations.

In accordance with Virginia Code Section § 2.2-3705.2(14)(b), "Vulnerability assessments, information not lawfully available to the public regarding specific cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities, or security plans and measures of an entity, facility, building structure, information technology system, or software program," is excluded from the mandatory disclosure provisions of this chapter but may be disclosed by the custodian in his discretion, except where such disclosure is prohibited by law.

Further, in accordance with Virginia Code Section § 2.2-3711(A)(19), public bodies may hold closed meetings for "Discussion of plans to protect public safety as it relates to terrorist activity or specific cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities and briefings by staff members, legal counsel, or law-enforcement or emergency service officials concerning actions taken to respond to such matters or a related threat to public safety; discussion of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 2 or 14 of § 2.2-3705.2, where discussion in an open meeting would jeopardize the safety of any person or the security of any facility, building, structure, information technology system, or software program; or discussion of reports or plans related to the security of any governmental facility, building or structure, or the safety of persons using such facility, building or structure."

With the above Virginia Code Sections, the results of this audit will not be shared publicly.