



## Gloucester City Public Schools

1300 Market Street  
Gloucester City, NJ 08030

**Teri J. Weeks, CPA, SFO, RSBO**

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**To: All Staff Members**  
**Re: Unemployment Fraud**

With the increased cases of unemployment fraud across the county, we wanted to take a moment to provide you some important information for you in the event you expect a case of unemployment fraud.

The Department of Labor has on-line reports available that suggest more than 1 in 10 unemployment claims in New Jersey are improperly made. School districts are particularly vulnerable because much district information is a matter of public record and available on the districts' websites, such as employee names, hire dates, salaries, and positions within the district. Given what is easy and legitimate to obtain on the internet, anyone whose Personally Identifiable Information (PII) has been compromised or mistakenly responds to an email or website, (no matter how legitimate they might appear) can provide the extra bits of PII needed to make a false claim. The IRS knows about this and warns people that organized crime rings are collecting illegal benefits all across the United States.

More in depth information can also be found on <https://www.irs.gov/identity-theft-fraud-scams/identity-theft-and-unemployment-benefits> and <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/UIIDtheft> (the below information was taken directly from their websites):

<https://www.irs.gov/identity-theft-fraud-scams/identity-theft-and-unemployment-benefits>

### **Identity Theft and Unemployment Benefits**

States have experienced a surge in fraudulent unemployment claims filed by organized crime rings using stolen identities. Criminals are using these stolen identities to fraudulently collect benefits across multiple states.

Because unemployment benefits are taxable income, states issue [Form 1099-G, Certain Government Payments](#), to recipients and to the IRS to report the amount of taxable compensation received and any withholding. Box 1 on the form shows "Unemployment

Compensation." You should report fraud to the issuing state agency and request a corrected Form 1099-G.

For details on how to report fraud to state workforce agencies, how to obtain a corrected Form 1099-G, a list of state contacts and other steps you should take if you are a victim, see the U.S. Department of Labor's [DOL.gov/fraud](https://www.dol.gov/fraud) page. Please follow Department of Labor guidance on reporting fraud and protecting yourself from additional scams.

**You may be a victim of unemployment identity theft if you received:**

- Mail from a government agency about an unemployment claim or payment and you did not recently file for unemployment benefits. This includes unexpected payments or debit cards and could be from any state.
- An IRS Form 1099-G reflecting unemployment benefits you weren't expecting. Box 1 on this form may show unemployment benefits you did not receive or an amount that exceeds your records for the unemployment benefits you did receive. The form itself may be from a state in which you did not file for benefits.
- While you are still employed, a notice from your employer indicating that your employer received a request for information about an unemployment claim in your name.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/UIIDtheft>

**Report Unemployment Identity Theft**

States have experienced a surge in fraudulent unemployment claims filed by organized crime rings using stolen identities **that were accessed or purchased from past data breaches, the majority of which occurred in previous years and involved larger criminal efforts unrelated to unemployment.** Criminals are using these stolen identities to fraudulently collect benefits across multiple states.

**REMEMBER**

*Never share personally identifiable info unless you initiate the contact whether by phone or digitally.*

*Do not respond to emails or answer calls with PII - locate the official phone number or email address of the agency and reach out directly.*