



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

We are aware of the ransomware attack and breach at the Department of Education. Our Cybersecurity Manager has developed and fostered relationships with our partners in the State of Colorado, including the Department of Education, Federal partners at CISA (Critical Infrastructure Security Agency), and DHS (Division of Homeland Security) and all 64 counties in Colorado over the last three years, gaining the trust and respect of our mutual partners.

The breach at the Colorado Department of Education doesn't affect Arapahoe County directly, but it is possible that it affects Arapahoe County's residents indirectly through the information that was stolen. CDHE has attempted to make notifications to all person(s) who were affected by this breach. The incident remains an ongoing investigation, and we remain in contact with our partners at the State of Colorado Department of Education and CISA, for not only support but to also stay up to date with information related to the incident that may impact our community.

The interconnectedness of systems along with the increasing reliance on technology, have made government organizations vulnerable to a wide range of threats. Arapahoe County has taken our Cybersecurity program to the next level in security within the last year. Not only do we stay up to date on all software updates, but we also implement quarterly security training for all county employees and conduct internal and external penetration testing, vulnerability scanning, patch management, and internal/external auditing. We have taken a proactive approach to reducing the potential for negative impacts on data security, operations, and legal compliance to enhance the overall decision-making process to assess third-party vendors for risk and security before they are procured by the county. These assessments ensure that the solutions align with our organization's security, regulatory, operational, and financial requirements.

The assessment asks questions that cover:

1. Data Security and Privacy
2. Cybersecurity Threats
3. Business Continuity
4. Compliance with Regulations
5. Vendor Trustworthiness
6. Integration and Interoperability
7. Performance and Reliability
8. Vendor's Security Practices

In the coming months, Arapahoe County will move forward with adopting StateRAMP into our vendor assessment process which the State of Colorado secured to assess all third-party vendors before contracting with a solution. StateRAMP, like FedRAMP, will require that all vendors meet minimum security requirements through a process like ours but take it a step further by assisting the vendors to become StateRAMP certified.

Arapahoe County Government remains diligent in the continued improvement of our cyber security posture.