



June 5, 2023

TO: Business and Accounting Administrators
Los Angeles County K-12 School, Community Colleges, Charter Schools,
Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs), and
Regional Occupational Centers/Programs (ROC/Ps)

FROM: Sachiko Enomoto, School Accounting and Finance Manager
Accounting and Financial Services
Division of School Financial Services (SFS)

SUBJECT: Introducing Early Warning Services for Added Vendor Account Security Involving
Automated Clearing House (ACH) Account Number Changes

In partnership with the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector, LACOE SFS is pleased to announce an extra layer of protection for vendor bank account changes. This is through a new Early Warning Services as part of our continued effort to assist in safeguarding district funds disbursed through our system.

We have issued bulletins on ways to mitigate risk of fraudulent transactions as there has been an increase in unauthorized personnel posing as vendors and requesting changes to Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) vendor account information. Please refer to Bulletins #[5213](#), #[5354](#) and #[6625](#) for more information.

Early Warning Services

Early Warning Services was established in 2006 as an independent company by six major banking institutions to share data in an effort to mitigate deposit losses and form an independent company to steward this data on behalf of the banking industry. The EWS can be used to enhance vendor account change requests review process prior to making ACH account number changes in FIN. The key feature of the EWS is that it provides **additional account legitimacy verification**. EWS will provide the district with account status, scored account data, and account owner elements. The account owner information provided will indicate if it is a match or if it does not match with the information EWS has.

Please note that the EWS should only serve as an *additional* measure, complementing the existing procedures that districts should have established. The recommended guidelines are outlined in the bulletins referred to in page 1. The EWS is not meant to be a stand-alone verification procedure for districts.

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If you are interested in signing up for Early Warning Services, please contact Anthony Hung at Hung_Anthony@lacoedu.

Should you have any questions related to this bulletin, please contact me at (562) 922-6191 or email Enomoto_Sachiko@lacoedu.

Approved by:

Nkeiruka Benson, Director

Division of School Financial Services

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