

# Class-action suit filed in MCCCD security breach

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A class-action lawsuit was filed this week against the Maricopa County Community College District over a computer security breach last year that exposed the personal information of more than 2.4 million people.

The lawsuit names as plaintiffs Chad Roberts, a former student at one of the 10 colleges, and Mark McKee, who took dual-enrollment courses through the district while a student at Brophy College Preparatory.

*The Arizona Republic* previously reported that the district didn't fully address a system hack that happened in January 2011, which directly led to the wider security breach that was discovered in April 2013.

The district didn't notify those affected, which included current and former students, staff and vendors going back more than 30 years, until November. The information that was exposed included staff members' banking information and Social Security numbers and students' academic information.

The lawsuit, filed by the Phoenix firm of Gallagher & Kennedy, seeks \$2,500 on behalf of each plaintiff.

It says the district was negligent by not protecting the personal information of people in the system.

By filing as a class-action, the suit could potentially seek damages for any person whose information was exposed.

In March, the firm filed a lawsuit compelling the district to turn over records related to the breach.

Several other former students and faculty members have filed notices of intent to sue the district over the security breach.

The district has authorized spending about \$17 million to deal with the incident, including \$10 million for credit monitoring and remediation and about \$7 million to repair the computer system.

The district initiated disciplinary action against several employees of the information-technology department. Several workers have resigned, and others' cases are ongoing. Two employees told *The Republic* they told the district in 2011 that the hacked system was vulnerable, but said nothing was done.

On May 27, the district governing board will vote on whether to increase the property tax, with some of the additional revenue used to further bolster the computer system.