

# 6

# TOP RISKS

## to Your Child's Identity at School

Parents have a long Back to School checklist, from buying basic school supplies to signing up for after-school programs. Now cyber criminals have forced parents to add one more item to the list: protecting children against identity theft. According to the Federal Trade Commission, six percent of identity theft victims in 2012 were under 19. Kids make easy targets because their credit histories aren't likely to be monitored and it could be years before fraud is detected.

You can safeguard your child's personal information by taking note of how pervasive this crime has become and the easiest places thieves can find your children's information either through school computer systems or in the school itself. Learn more with tips from our experts at IDT911.

# 2.5%

of households with children under age 18 experience child identity theft

# 27%

of child identity theft victims know the perpetrator

# 50%

of households with child identity theft victims have incomes under \$35,000

### WHERE THIEVES LOOK

1. Nurse's Office
2. Front Office
3. Library
4. Sports Programs
5. Counselor's Office
6. School Databases

### WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR

- Social Security numbers (SSNs)
- Immunization records
- Parent information
- Financial information
- School email addresses

### TIPS

1. **Keep SSNs and birth certificates in a secure location.** Share sparingly.
2. **Ask before sharing your child's personal information.** Before providing sensitive data to a school, ask why it's needed, how it will be secured and if there's another way to identify your child.



Protecting Identities. Enhancing Reputations.

Sources: 2014 FTC Consumer Sentinel, 2012 Child Identity Fraud Survey