

Memorandum

To: State Agencies
From: Jay White, ITS Security Services Director
Date: May 15, 2018
Re: Enterprise Security Awareness Education Training Solution

The State of Mississippi Enterprise Security Policy (ESP) requires each state agency to implement a security awareness program for all agency employees; trusted partners; and individuals authorized to operate, manage, or use state of Mississippi (SOM) Assets. Security awareness programs include training to help change user behavior through a series of short tutorials that educate users on how to improve their cybersecurity posture. Many state agencies have elected to utilize computer-based training solutions for conducting the training rather than using live classroom training. To that end, ITS began developing a strategy for ensuring state agencies have easy access to computer-based security awareness training.

ITS determined that the best way to provide agencies the easy access was the same method most had already been using – to find a qualified Vendor that could provide a hosted, web-based security awareness education training solution. ITS also realized that the resulting contract could leverage the volume buying power of the State to minimize operational costs. In April of 2017, ITS communicated its plan to use a collaborative approach for finding such a vendor and establishing a contract that can be used by any Mississippi state agency. In June 2017, a Security Awareness RFP Working Group (SATWG) consisting of a cross-section of state agencies (see table 1) was formed to develop specifications for a solution that would meet the business needs of all state agencies. In June 2017, the SATWG held a Kickoff Meeting to begin the RFP process. The SATWG finalized the specifications for the RFP in September 2017; ITS advertised the RFP in October; and on December 8, ITS received proposal responses. The SATWG evaluated the proposals and selected InfoSec Institute's solution as lowest and best.

One of the directives of the ITS Enterprise Security Program is to implement enterprise technology solutions and security standards capable of improving the cybersecurity posture in the function of any agency, institution or function of state government as a whole. As a result of the collaborative work described above, ITS is establishing the awarded security awareness training solution as the enterprise standard for state agencies.

Enterprise Standard – Security Awareness Training Solution:

- The InfoSec Institute’s security awareness education training solution awarded through RFP 4034 is the enterprise standard to be utilized by all state agencies that rely on computer-based training for delivering security awareness to their users.
 - State agencies that elect to perform their security awareness training in a live classroom environment instead of computer-based are not required to utilize this enterprise solution, unless that live instruction relies on computer-based training.
- Each agency can register for a demo account of InfoSec’s awareness training solution to get more information about its functionality. You can register for the account here <https://securityiq.infosecinstitute.com/users/add>.
 - Please note that each agency should only create one demo account. After the account is created, additional administrators can be added.
- Agencies using the solution will pay the per student (user seat) fee established by InfoSec Institute to provide access to the solution for a training period of 12-months. The volume of students for all state government entities registered for each 12-month cycle will determine the final per-student fee. Before each 12-month period (for the life of the contract), agencies will have the opportunity to enroll or renew their access to the solution, and they will be able to adjust the total number of users that they will need for the next training period. Refer to table 2 for a breakdown of InfoSec Institute's cost-per-student tiers.
- The only permitted exceptions to this enterprise standard are those that are approved in writing by ITS for an agency’s specific purpose and are only applicable to that agency’s operations for the duration of time defined by the exception. A detailed description of the standards exception process is included in the Enterprise Security Program document. The Program document is available on the ITS website.

How to Register:

An agency electing to utilize a computer-based security awareness education training solution for the Funding Year (FY) 2019 (beginning July 1, 2018) should gather the information described below and submit it to ITS (InformationSecurity@its.ms.gov) **before June 15, 2018.**

1. **Total Number of Students:** Identify the total number of student seats the agency would like to purchase for FY 2019
2. **Agency Administrator:** Identify the agency administrator that will be responsible for managing the solution and provide their name, phone number, and email address

Note: The maximum possible per student fee is \$11.00; however, the total number of seats purchased by all Mississippi government entities will determine the final per student fee for FY 2019. Reference the cost-per-student details in table 2 for budgeting purposes.

Table 1

Security Awareness RFP Working Group: Members	
Agency	Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
	Mississippi Department of Revenue
	Mississippi Department of Education
	Mississippi Public Employees' Retirement System
	Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
	Mississippi Secretary of State's Office
	Mississippi Division of Medicaid
	Mississippi Development Authority
	Mississippi Attorney General's Office

Table 2

Description	Quantity (Student Seats)	Cost Per Student
Tier 1: One-Year Subscription to Awareness Solution	51 - 1,000	\$11.00
Tier 2: One-Year Subscription to Awareness Solution	1,001 - 1,500	\$9.00
Tier 3: One-Year Subscription to Awareness Solution	1,501 - 2,000	\$8.00
Tier 4: One-Year Subscription to Awareness Solution	2,001 - 3,000	\$7.00
Tier 5: One-Year Subscription to Awareness Solution	3,001 - 5,000	\$6.00
Tier 6: One-Year Subscription to Awareness Solution	5,001 - 10,000	\$4.00
Tier 7: One-Year Subscription to Awareness Solution	10,001 - 20,000	\$2.50
Tier 8: One-Year Subscription to Awareness Solution	20,001 - 30,000	\$2.10
Tier 9: One-Year Subscription to Awareness Solution	30,001 - 50,000	\$1.40