



## **Cyberattack of Qi STEAM Academy Data Breach Leads to Security Overhaul**

**Ames, Iowa** – On March 10, 2021, Qi Learning Research Group was informed of an evasive cyberattack on the Qi STEAM Academy IT system. The hackers aimed to gather personal information about educators enrolled in the Qi STEAM Academy program, and unfortunately, they succeeded.

Qi STEAM Academy is a year-long training program for educators offered yearly by Qi Learning Research Group. The program provides education in non-traditional STEAM techniques and professional development opportunities. Weekly courses, teacher toolkits, grants, support groups, and an extensive resource library are all Qi STEAM Academy offerings.

147 individuals enrolled in the Qi STEAM Academy program had their personal information exposed from the cyberattack. “I feel it is essential to be transparent; that is why we alerted all educators and personnel involved with any aspect of Qi STEAM Academy as soon as we became aware”, remarked Yen Verhoeven PhD, CEO and Founder of Qi Learning and Research Group.

In tandem with the FBI, local police departments believe the hackers invaded the Qi STEAM Academy software through “buffer overflow,” an attack where the hacker delivers malicious commands to a system by overrunning an application buffer. John Travis, a cybersecurity agent with the FBI, states, “We see this sort of cyberattack quite often. Sadly, many organizations don't have proper security software to combat the threat.”

In response to the cyberattack, Qi Learning Research Group has installed advanced encryption and security systems in all online components and hired an IT specialist team to monitor the development. The group also offers complimentary identity theft services to all customers and works on customers' behalf with banks and credit offices to ensure no fraudulent charges are the customer's responsibility.

For updates on the cyberattack, go to [QiSTEAMAcademy.com](https://QiSTEAMAcademy.com) for details.

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**Qi STEAM Academy:** Qi STEAM Academy is a groundbreaking training program and support group for educators. By empowering teachers with innovative resources and non-traditional STEAM techniques, Qi STEAM Academy promotes a student-centered curriculum to encourage a legacy of classroom enthusiasm.