

NEWS FROM

KHEAA–Alabama

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Money Tip for Students, July 2018

Online security can help protect you from cyber thieves

The hacking theft of credit and debit card numbers should make everyone, including students, more careful about protecting their money from cyber thieves. The following measures can help, according to KHEAA–Alabama.

Never provide Social Security numbers, bank account numbers or credit card numbers in response to a phone call, fax, letter or email. If you get an email from a bank or company with which you do business, don't click on any links in the email. They may lead you to a fake web page run by thieves hoping you'll enter personal information. Scammers also use such links to install spyware or malware on your device. Instead, sign in through the website you normally use.

Never provide bank, credit card or other sensitive data on a website that doesn't explain how your data will be protected or offer encryption to transmit and store data safely.

Check your bank and credit card accounts regularly to catch any suspicious activities. If you find something, contact your bank or credit card company immediately.

Install a free or low-cost firewall to stop intruders from gaining remote access to your personal computer. Download and frequently update security patches offered by your operating system and software vendors to correct weaknesses that a hacker could exploit.

KHEAA is a public, non-profit agency established in 1966 to improve students' access to college. It provides information about financial aid and financial literacy at no cost to students and parents. KHEAA also helps colleges manage their student loan default rates and verify information submitted on the FAFSA. For more information about those services, visit www.kheaa.com.

In addition, KHEAA disburses private Advantage Education Loans on behalf of its sister agency, KHESLC. For more information about Advantage Education Loans, visit www.advantageeducationloan.com.

For more information about financial aid and college planning, visit www.alstudentaid.com.