



TOPIC: PowerSchool Cybersecurity Incident

Recipients: Parents and staff of NC Public Schools students (including charter schools)

Pioneers:

This message is being sent to PSPA staff on behalf of PowerSchool and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. This information is being shared with families across North Carolina with students in public schools and to staff who work in public schools, both traditional and charter schools.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, January 7, PowerSchool alerted the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) to a cybersecurity incident impacting student and teacher data across their global client base. This incident was not isolated to North Carolina. PowerSchool is a student information system (SIS) that has been in use in North Carolina since 2013, and was utilized by PSPA as our primary SIS prior to the 2024-25 school year.

On December 28, 2024, PowerSchool became aware of a cybersecurity incident that began on December 19, 2024, involving unauthorized access to student and teacher data. The data breach occurred when the credentials of a PowerSchool contract employee were compromised.

PowerSchool has shared that the threat has been contained and that the compromised data was not shared and has been destroyed. PowerSchool is working with law enforcement to monitor the dark web for any data exposure. PowerSchool has indicated that it is not experiencing any operational disruptions and continues to provide services.

Pine Springs Preparatory Academy is cooperating with NCDPI and PowerSchool as evidenced by sending this notification to you. It is important to stress that there is nothing that Pine Springs Preparatory Academy (PSPA) or NCDPI could have done to avoid this cybersecurity incident. There is nothing that PSPA or NCDPI did, or didn't do, that led to the data breach. Neither our school nor NCDPI have administrative access to the maintenance tunnel where the breach occurred.

In the coming days, impacted families will receive notifications and instructions from PowerSchool on what you may wish to do to keep your personal information safe. This notification will come from PowerSchool, not PSPA. PowerSchool, not PSPA nor NCDPI, is responsible for all communications to impacted families, which includes fielding questions that you may have. NCDPI is committed to protecting student and staff information, and they are actively advocating for each of them as they navigate this situation with PowerSchool.

In the meantime, I encourage you to visit <https://www.powerschool.com/security/sis-incident/> for up-to-date information from PowerSchool on the cybersecurity incident.

Sincerely,
Bruce

Bruce Friend
Head of School