

January 14, 2025

Dear South Williamsport Area School District (SWASD) Families:

We are contacting you to advise that on Jan. 9, 2025, we learned of a data security incident at PowerSchool that occurred on or around Dec. 22, 2024, that may have compromised the personal information of certain current and former SWASD staff members and current and former students. This notice includes important information about the nature of this cybersecurity incident and response actions.

What Happened?

As you may be aware, PowerSchool, a global company that provides student information management services to thousands of entities, experienced a worldwide cybersecurity incident. SWASD utilizes PowerSchool for its student information system.

Did SWASD Experience a Cybersecurity Breach?

No. SWASD's systems were not breached. PowerSchool is a vendor of SWASD and it was PowerSchool who had an unauthorized party breach its systems.

What Personal Information Was Accessed?

PowerSchool has informed SWASD that the nature of SWASD's data within PowerSchool's system that was accessed may include sensitive student information such as names, addresses, demographic information, and social security numbers, and/or protected health information. Please note that the district has not included student social security numbers in PowerSchools for the past 6-8 years, and therefore, would not have student social security numbers who have been entered in the last 6-8 years. We are currently working on getting the specific information on when the district quit collecting the social security number data. SWASD has also investigated what personal information was accessed during the breach and has determined that protected health information such as a medical diagnosis, injury, allergy information, or food sensitivity may also have been exposed.

What is PowerSchool Doing to Remedy the Breach?

PowerSchool has taken swift action to address the breach, including:

- Engaging third-party cybersecurity experts and law enforcement to assist in their investigation.
- Deactivating the compromised credentials and restricting access to the affected portal.
- Implementing a complete password reset and enhanced access controls to prevent future incidents.

What is SWASD Doing to Support Our Families?

SWASD is actively working with PowerSchool to gain additional information about the cybersecurity incident so that it can further assess the situation and take steps to protect and

support all impacted individuals. SWASD will actively monitor the situation and assist in facilitating additional information when it becomes available.

What Can You Do to Protect Your Student?

We strongly advise that you take preventive measures to help prevent and detect any misuse of your student's information. We recommend that you closely monitor their financial accounts and if you see any unauthorized activity, you should promptly contact their financial institution. Additionally, you may want to contact the three U.S. credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion) to obtain a free credit report from each by calling 1.877.322.8228 or by logging onto www.annualcreditreport.com. Even if you do not find any suspicious activity on the initial credit reports, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends that you check credit reports periodically. Checking credit reports periodically can help you spot a problem and address it quickly.

What Are the Next Steps?

SWASD will continue to communicate any updates and resources provided by PowerSchool for impacted individuals as they become available at

www.swasd.org

Although PowerSchool is taking responsibility for the unauthorized breach of its systems, SWASD recognizes the concerning nature of cybersecurity incidents such as this and apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

How Can I Ask Questions or Receive Updates?

For the latest details on this incident, additional updates, or information on how to reach out to SWASD with further questions, please feel free to contact Dwight Woodley at dwoodley@swasd.org.

We are committed to keeping you informed and rest assured that we are prioritizing the safety and privacy of your data.

Yours in Education,

Dr. Eric Briggs

Superintendent of Schools
South Williamsport Area School District