

On the afternoon of Tuesday, January 7, PowerSchool alerted North Carolina public schools and 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; it impacted PowerSchool clients globally. PowerSchool is a student information system (SIS) that has been in use in North Carolina since 2013.

On December 28, 2024, PowerSchool became aware of a cybersecurity incident involving unauthorized access to student and teacher data. The data breach occurred when the credentials of a PowerSchool contract employee were compromised. The threat actors used the compromised account to download student and staff data tables from schools around the world.

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.

As the party responsible for the breach, PowerSchool will conduct all necessary notifications once the investigation is completed to ensure appropriate and accurate compliance with local, state and federal requirements and laws. PowerSchool has informed all impacted (PSUs). All PSUs that currently or previously utilized the PowerSchool SIS were impacted by the data breach to some degree. A limited number of student social security numbers were exposed, specifically less than 1,000 students' social security numbers were in the data from the 12 years PowerSchool administered North Carolina's student information system. More teachers' social security numbers were impacted than students. PowerSchool is analyzing the data and has shared that they plan to begin the notification process by the end of January.

Both PowerSchool and independent security consultants have also confirmed that there were no actions that NCDPI or any PSU could have taken to prevent this global cybersecurity incident.

NCDPI is working closely with PSUs across the state to identify the specific information accessed at each school and to support students and staff throughout this process. We are also advocating with PowerSchool on behalf of North Carolina's students and educators to ensure timely notification and appropriate actions, such as credit monitoring. NCDPI remains committed to providing guidance and resources to help affected individuals stay informed and receive the necessary support as we work to address the impact of this incident.

Additional Information and Resources:

[PowerSchool FAQs](#)

[PowerSchool Resource Site](#)

[NCDOJ: Free Security Freeze in North Carolina](#)