

Dear Marion County School District Families,

On January 8, 2025, the South Carolina Department of Education notified the district about a cybersecurity breach involving PowerSchool. We will closely monitor the situation and provide updates as more information becomes available. The official communication from SCDE is below.



SCDE Responds to PowerSchool Data Breach

- Jan 8, 2025

Late Tuesday, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) was informed by PowerSchool of a cybersecurity breach involving its PowerSource portal. This was an international incident over which the state and local districts had no control.

This breach resulted in unauthorized access to certain customer data from PowerSchool's Student Information Systems (SIS), including data from multiple states and school districts across the country.

During a meeting with PowerSchool's senior leadership, they confirmed that personally identifiable information (PII) was compromised. The SCDE is currently working to understand the full scope of the breach.

PowerSchool has stated that this breach has been contained and has informed the SCDE that it has taken steps to secure its systems, engage cybersecurity experts, and is also coordinating with law enforcement to address the breach.

The SCDE is actively communicating with PowerSchool, legal counsel, and local districts to assess the full impact on South Carolina schools, students, and educators and to determine next steps. The SCDE is also in direct communication with the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), the Attorney General's office and has notified the Governor and legislative leaders.

Commenting on the seriousness of this incident, State Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver said, "The protection of our South Carolina students' and educators' personal data is non-negotiable. We fully recognize the anxiety this raises for them and their families."

She continued, "While PowerSchool has taken accountability for this breach, our Department

will take uncompromising action to ensure we uncover the complete extent of this incident. We will insist that PowerSchool not only notify affected individuals but also provide them with credit and identity monitoring services."

The SCDE will continue to engage and support districts and schools throughout this process as more information becomes available.