PowerSchool Data Breach: What You Need to Know
Hopatcong Borough Schools

January 9, 2025

What Happened?
PowerSchool, our Student Information System, informed school districts on January 7, 2025, of a nationwide and international data breach involving compromised credentials from one of their employees that occurred in December. This breach allowed unauthorized access to data stored in the global Student Information System (SIS). When PowerSchool became aware of the incident on December 28, 2024, they immediately notified law enforcement, secured the system, and enlisted the help of cybersecurity experts from CrowdStrike and Cyber Steward to investigate and prevent further threats.

What Data Could Have Been Accessed?
According to PowerSchool's initial findings, some student and staff information may have been accessed, including contact details such as names, addresses, and phone numbers, as well as student health and grade information.
Please note that the Hopatcong Borough Schools do not store Social Security numbers, and no financial information was included in the breach.

What We Know So Far
PowerSchool has received assurances from the source of the breach that the data has been deleted and no further copies exist. They believe that the data will not be shared or made public and have confirmed its deletion through video evidence. PowerSchool is actively monitoring the dark web to ensure no further misuse of the data.

What Happens Next?
PowerSchool has confirmed that the incident is contained, with no signs of ongoing unauthorized activity. There has been no disruption to their services, and they continue to operate as normal for all districts.

Although PowerSchool does not anticipate misuse of personal information, they are offering credit monitoring services to affected adults and identity protection for impacted minors, as required by regulations. You will be notified by either PowerSchool or Hopatcong Borough Schools if any of your data, or your student's data, was affected.

As the investigation continues, PowerSchool will provide additional resources and information, and we will ensure that relevant updates are shared with you. While PowerSchool is taking responsibility for this incident, the Hopatcong Borough Schools remain committed to safeguarding the data of our students, staff, and families. Software and network systems operated directly by the Hopatcong Borough Schools were not impacted by this data breach.

We will continue to communicate openly and transparently about this situation.

Jeffrey Hallenbeck

Superintendent of Schools