

8/12/2019

AIMSweb Security Incident

Bismarck Public School District has received a letter regarding a data security incident affecting the Aimsweb 1.0 assessment platform used in the district up through last school year. AIMSweb is a universal screening tool used with all students K-5 and a progress monitoring tool for students receiving support interventions. Aimsweb is owned by the Pearson Clinical Assessment company. This was a nationwide breach, occurring with the vendor (not BPS) and affected more than 13,000 schools and universities.

Pearson, working with security experts, has indicated that there is no evidence that any data has been misused.

The specific student data in the file, as provided by Pearson, included first name, last name, and date of birth. According to Pearson, no grade or assessment information was affected in this incident, and the Aimsweb 1.0 platform **does not** contain Social Security numbers, credit card data or other financial information. Employee data that was part of the incident consisting of first name, last name, and district email address.

Please know that Bismarck Public Schools takes the confidentiality of student and staff data very seriously. All of our district contracts containing student and staff information are approved by the School Board and have specific language protecting student and staff data – per our Board policy FGA. As part of our BPS effort to maintain student and staff confidentiality, we only provide the minimum information required to utilize external systems. We have included a letter from the Pearson educational company that has further detail - <https://bit.ly/2GMFn6v>. As they write in their letter, Pearson is offering complimentary credit monitoring services from Experian for affected individuals. While they do not have any evidence that the information was misused, they are providing this option for those who wish to enroll as a precautionary measure.

If you are interested in learning more about this option or if you have additional questions please call 866-883-3309 or email aimsweb1request@pearson.com.

In your email you can provide your name, statement of the situation, and that you would like the free credit monitoring information. You will receive an email with links and instructions.

We felt strongly that being transparent and clear was in the best interest of our student and staff data practices. We are in the process of communicating **via a direct email** to those families and staff members impacted by this incident. This information is posted on our website and If we receive any additional information from Pearson, we will post those update as well at www.bismarckschools.org.

Mission: “All students will have the academic, social, and personal skills to be college, career, and community ready.”

Vision: “Together, we inspire a passion for learning, discovery, and excellence.”