



Important Notice Regarding PowerSchool Data Breach

January 9, 2025

Dear GSIS Community,

We are writing to inform you about a recent data security incident involving the PowerSchool Student Information System. On Tuesday, January 8, 2025, PowerSchool notified GSIS, along with many other schools worldwide, of a breach in their system. This breach, caused by compromised credentials, occurred on or around December 22, 2024. Please rest assured, that this was an external attack on PowerSchool itself, not a targeted attack on GSIS.

What Happened

Upon receiving PowerSchool's notification, GSIS conducted a thorough review of our data logs. We confirmed that our PowerSchool server was accessed, and data related to our staff, students, and families was compromised. The affected data includes:

- Names of Staff, Students and Parents
- Demographic information such as Date of Birth and current grade at GSIS
- Contact details such as email addresses, phone numbers, and home addresses.

No academic records, financial information, or photos were affected by this breach.

Steps Taken

PowerSchool immediately engaged top cybersecurity experts, including CrowdStrike and CyberSteward, to contain the breach, secure their systems, and delete the compromised data. They have assured us that:

- The breach has been contained.
- Exported data has been deleted.
- Continuous monitoring is in place to ensure the data is not shared further.

At this time, there is no evidence of ongoing malicious activity. PowerSchool has expressed a high degree of confidence that the exported data will not be made public.

Compliance and Next Steps

In compliance with Korean law, GSIS has reported this incident to the Personal Information Protection Commission (PIPC), Gyeonggi-do Education Information Record Institute Cyber Security Center, and the Suwon Office of the Gyeonggi-do Board of Education within the mandatory 72-hour reporting period.

PowerSchool has committed to transparency throughout this process and will provide a full investigation report later this month. We will review this report when it becomes available and share any relevant updates with you.

What You Can Do

Although PowerSchool has secured its systems, we recommend the following steps to ensure the safety of your information:

1. Monitor for any unusual or unexpected communication.
2. While passwords were not compromised in this breach, you may want to consider updating your PowerSchool password as a precaution.

You can reset your password by clicking the "Forgot Username or Password?" button on the PowerSchool login page.

Our Commitment

We deeply regret any concern or inconvenience this incident may have caused and remain fully committed to safeguarding your personal information. GSIS continues to work closely with PowerSchool and cybersecurity experts to ensure your data is protected.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you for your understanding and trust.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Schirmer
Director of Innovation
schirmern@gsis.sc.kr