



HERTFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HCPs, serving as a cornerstone of our community, will prepare graduates who are ready to meet the global challenges of education, career, and life.

701 North Martin Street • P.O. Box 158 • Winton, North Carolina 27986 • Phone (252)358-1761 • FAX (252) 358-4745

1/10/2025

Subject: PowerSchool Cybersecurity Incident

Dear Parents and Staff,

On the afternoon of Tuesday, January 7, 2025 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. 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 that began on December 19, 2024, involving unauthorized access to student and teacher data. The data breach occurred when the credentials of a PowerSchool contract employee were compromised. PowerSchool has shared that the threat has been contained and that the compromised data was not shared and destroyed. PowerSchool is working with law enforcement to monitor the dark web for any data exposure.

It is important to stress that there is nothing that Hertford County Public Schools or NCDPI could have done to avoid this cybersecurity incident. Neither our schools nor DPI have access to the maintenance tunnel where the breach occurred.

In the coming days, impacted students and staff will receive notification. Protecting student and educator data is a top priority, and we take this matter very seriously. NCDPI is committed to protecting our students and staff, and they are actively advocating for each of them as we navigate this situation with PowerSchool. Additionally, with PowerSchool's help, more information and resources (including credit monitoring or identity protection services if applicable) will be provided to you as it becomes available.

Hertford County Public Schools will work alongside NCDPI and PowerSchool to ensure all required notifications are received. To consolidate communication and ensure everyone is kept up to date, we have developed a page on our website that will allow you to subscribe for updates and will contain all of our communications and other information that is shared. Please access that page at

<https://www.hertford.k12.nc.us/Page/3186>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please submit them using either the [PowerSchool Cybersecurity Incident Questions and Concerns Form](#) or directly to Mr. Thomas Grimes at tgrimes@hertford.k12.nc.us with the subject line "PowerSchool Incident".