

January 8, 2025

Dear DPCDSB families and staff:

I am writing to share an important update about a cybersecurity incident experienced by PowerSchool, the student information system software vendor used by DPCDSB and many other school boards across North America. The PowerSchool application is used to store a range of student information and a limited amount of school-based staff information.

On Tuesday, January 7, PowerSchool notified DPCDSB and other school boards in Ontario and across North America that it had experienced a data breach on December 22, 2024.

Our cybersecurity team promptly activated our response plan, taking immediate steps to ensure that our critical systems remain operational.

Working with PowerSchool, we are conducting a thorough investigation to understand the nature of the incident and what personal information may have been affected. At this point in time, we are still assessing the exact information that may have been accessed or exported from the application. PowerSchool has informed us that it has received confirmation that the data accessed by an unauthorized user has been deleted and that no copies of this data were posted online.

If it is determined that any personal information has been impacted, we will let you know as soon as possible.

Please be assured that we are doing everything possible to learn more from PowerSchool about what occurred and will share that information with you.

Many of you will have questions as a result of this news, but given the ongoing investigation into what occurred, and the fact that the incident occurred with the vendor and not DPCDSB, we do not yet have more information to share at this time.

We will continue to update our staff and the community as more information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D.
Director of Education