

Herscher CUSD#2 was notified on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 about a recent data breach involving one of our software vendors, PowerSchool. PowerSchool sent out an email to their customers notifying them about an unauthorized user with potential access to their backend systems, potentially impacting data related to their services.

The perpetrator was able to use one of PowerSchools backend support accounts to remotely access databases throughout US and Canada. This attack was not an isolated situation to Herscher CUSD#2.

From our district side, our Technology Director is monitoring the situation and working with our vendor to see what can be done to future prevent situations like this from happening. Unfortunately, we were able to pull audit logs from our system and confirmed that a backend PowerSchool user in question had access into our database system on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and direct data exports where ran. Social security numbers where NOT compromised by this breach. Our district does not store this type of information in our student information system. However, information such as names, addresses, date of birth, and personal contact information may be affected.

PowerSchool is also actively investigating the scope of the breach and has assured us that they are taking all necessary steps to address the situation and enhance their security measures. PowerSchool has insured us that they have deactivated all compromised credentials and restricted all access to the affected portal. They have also conducted a full password reset and further tightened their access control for all support accounts. PowerSchool stated that they not anticipate the data being shared or made public, and they believe the information has been deleted without any further replication or dissemination

In the coming days, PowerSchool stated they will provide our school district with a communications package to support you in engaging with families, teachers and other stakeholders about this incident. The communications package will include a tailored outreach emails, talking points, and a robust FAQ so that district and school leadership can confidently discuss this incident with your community.

Your trust and security is our highest priorities. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as we receive more information from PowerSchool.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate this situation.

Benjamin Seeman  
Technology Director  
Herscher CUSD#2