

Dear HSHMC Families,

All schools in San Diego Unified School District, including Health Sciences High and Middle College, use a computer platform called PowerSchool to maintain student information records. PowerSchool, which supports over 60 million students and has over 18,000 customers worldwide, suffered a nationwide data breach that may have exposed names and addresses of students and educators and, in some cases, more sensitive information like Social Security numbers, medical information, and grades. **Through discussions with PowerSchool leadership, it was made clear there was no additional action districts could have taken to prevent the breach.** PowerSchool said the incident was an attack on the company, not any particular school system.

PowerSchool spokesperson Beth Keebler wrote that the company became aware of “a potential cybersecurity incident” on December 28, 2024 and has “taken all appropriate steps to prevent the data involved from further unauthorized access or misuse.”

Despite the assurances from PowerSchool that the incident has been contained, we wanted to make you aware that this breach has provided unauthorized access information to some to Health Sciences High and College Families. PowerSchool is working with urgency to complete their investigation and determine whether and what personal identifiable information belonging to our students was included; and if so, what additional actions should be taken.

We take your safety and security very seriously. At the school,

- We will continue to take all the steps possible to further secure and protect your private information and prevent further unauthorized access or misuse.
- We will continue to provide you with any information or updates or recommendations that we receive from PowerSchool that may affect your personal information.
- With PowerSchool’s help, we will provide you with more information (including credit monitoring or identity protection information and/or services, if needed).

This incident is yet another reminder of the importance of cybersecurity to safeguard against scams. Always be aware of requests for information or unsolicited offers for products or services you receive from unknown sources. Be suspicious of any email that asks you to act, click a link, or divulge information immediately to claim a reward or avoid penalty. Always be aware of any emails that request sensitive information. Scammers often make offers that are too good to be true or try to scare you into taking action that divulges personal information.

Protecting our students is something we take seriously. With PowerSchool’s help, more information and resources will be provided to you as they become available. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

