

January 9, 2025

Good morning,

We're writing to inform you that on January 7, 2025, River East Transcona School Division (RETSD) was notified by our student information system provider, PowerSchool, that a cybersecurity event occurred in late December and that some of our PowerSchool data was accessed.

PowerSchool, not RETSD, was the target of the cybersecurity event. Their customers across Canada and the United States have been impacted, including RETSD. We're working with them to ensure the integrity and stability of our data going forward.

To this point, PowerSchool has worked with cybersecurity experts to resolve the situation. They've deactivated accounts, initiated enhanced processes for passwords and access, and provided us with assurances that the accessed data has now been deleted. Furthermore, PowerSchool has confidence that the data was not copied or uploaded elsewhere. They've actively engaged with cybersecurity professionals to continue to monitor this event.

RETSD has taken the necessary preliminary steps to respond to this situation, which includes involving the appropriate professionals. No other school division systems or data were accessed or compromised.

We're currently investigating the impact of this cybersecurity event in RETSD. At this time, we believe that the data accessed included information about students—particularly contact information and other details provided to the division at the time the students were registered. No banking information or images of students were accessed. At this time, we have no indication that any form of staff data was accessed.

Please be assured that the safety and security of our data—particularly the information of your children and our staff—is of paramount importance to us and to PowerSchool. We regret that this has occurred, and we will continue to collaborate on this matter.

It is our commitment to you to continue to communicate, and as we learn more, we will be in touch with you, our community. Communication will also be posted on our website and a process to ask questions will be identified.

Regards,



Sandra Herbst,
Superintendent/CEO