



Starmont Community School District

STrawberry Point • ARLington • LaMONT

3202 40th Street • Arlington, Iowa 50606-8199

Superintendent
(563) 933-4598

Middle/High School
(563) 933-2218

Elementary School
(563) 933-2238

District Fax
(563) 933-2134

February 26, 2025

Dear Starmont Families,

An email (please check your spam folder) was sent out to you today from PowerSchool, a platform utilized as a student data management system, to inform you about a cybersecurity incident and options for you. PowerSchool became aware of unauthorized access to certain information on its Student Information System (SIS). This breach was a global incident affecting multiple districts nationwide, including Starmont. This was not a localized incident to the Starmont Community School District.

What Happened?

Unauthorized access to PowerSchool's SIS occurred on December 22, 2024. PowerSchool identified the issue on December 28, 2024, and notified the customers, including our district, on January 7, 2025. The district contacted our insurance carrier, EMC, in cooperation with PowerSchool.

What information was involved?

This breach includes personally identifiable information (PII) for many students, staff, and families within our school district. The following details may have been accessed:

- For students: PII includes Social Security Numbers (SSN), date of birth (DOB), addresses, medical alerts, and additional sensitive fields.
- For staff: PowerSchool usernames and passwords, phone numbers, and teacher numbers.

PowerSchool has assured us there is no evidence of misuse or public dissemination of the breached data. Additionally, PowerSchool engaged CyberSteward, a professional advisor, who has provided reasonable assurances that the data has been deleted without further replication or dissemination.

The Starmont Community School District does not intentionally discriminate on the basis of sex, race and color, national origin, religion and creed, age, marital/parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, or socioeconomic status or familial status in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, or as otherwise prohibited by statute or regulation. If you believe such discrimination has occurred and want to receive more information about the grievance procedure, please contact the Superintendent/Equity Coordinator at 3202 40th Street, Arlington, Iowa 50606 or call (563) 933-4598.

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What Actions are Being Taken by PowerSchool

- Credit Monitoring: PowerSchool is offering credit monitoring for affected adults and identity protection for affected minors. **Please see the specifics in the email from PowerSchool.**
- Improved Security Measures: PowerSchool has enhanced its password policies, access controls, and monitoring systems to prevent future breaches.
- District IT Response: Our district continues to monitor the information being shared by PowerSchool and aims to be a proactive advocate on your behalf. While this breach was not local and outside of our control, we do continually review our local cybersecurity and diligently keep up to date with industry best practices.

How Does This Affect You?

As a precaution, we recommend the following steps to protect your information:

1. Change Passwords. If you have a PowerSchool account, update your password to a strong, unique one. If you use this for additional personal accounts, we recommend you change your password.
2. Monitor Accounts: Regularly review accounts for suspicious activity.
3. Beware of Phishing: Be cautious of unsolicited emails or messages related to PowerSchool or the Starmont School District. Do not click on unknown links or provide personal information.
4. Update Contact Information: Ensure your contact details in PowerSchool are accurate in receive timely updates.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the PowerSchool Team at 833-918-9464, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am through 8:00 pm Central Time (excluding major US holidays).

Your Partner in Education,



Rob Busch

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