



Butte County School District

120 Water Street
Arco, Idaho 83213
208-690-3420

<http://buttecountyschools.sharpschool.com/>

January 10, 2025

Dear Butte County Families and Employees,

On January 7th, PowerSchool notified our IT Department that Butte County School District 111 was affected by a cybersecurity incident that occurred on December 22nd.

According to PowerSchool, an unauthorized individual used a compromised credential to access their system. The threat actor then used maintenance access channels to access data stored on the school district's PowerSchool servers. Upon discovering the incident, PowerSchool notified law enforcement, locked down the system, and engaged CyberSteward and CrowdStrike to investigate and respond to the cybersecurity attack.

Once we were notified of this incident by PowerSchool, the District 111 IT investigated access logs for PowerSchool and confirmed that the threat actor did in fact steal data from the Students table and the Teachers table in our PowerSchool database. These tables included records of students and teachers dating back to 2005. The personally identifiable information (PII) that was stolen was primarily limited to names, home addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and a few social security numbers. It is important to know that we stopped inputting social security numbers for students and social security numbers for teachers in the system many years ago. However, there were a few families and staff members who had SSNs remaining in the system. A separate email will be sent to those individuals who we have current contact information for.

Security officials from PowerSchool assured us that they have worked with the threat actor to ensure that all stolen records have subsequently been destroyed.

Although this incident originated with PowerSchool, we take this situation very seriously. Out of an abundance of caution, we are actively taking the following steps:

- We have disabled the PowerSchool remote support option.
- Initiated Password resets for all staff and students.
- We have blocked IP addresses from the country where this attack originated as well as other countries where these types of attacks typically originate from.
- We have reported this incident to the Idaho Counties Risk Management Pool, State Board of Education, and Idaho Department of Education, and will coordinate with them on engaging further cybersecurity support.
- For transparency, the district is creating a webpage on our district website to put information as we get it. That link will be shared once the page is created.

At Butte County School District 111, we are committed to safeguarding the data of our students, staff, and families. We will continue to communicate openly and transparently as we address this matter. If you have any questions or believe your information may have been compromised, please contact Joe Steele at 208-690-3424 or Valarie Gamett at 208-690 3406.

Sincerely,

Joe Steele
Superintendent
Butte County School District 111