



January 9, 2025

Dear Archdiocesan High School Families and Alumni,

I am writing to share that the Office of Catholic Education (OCE) was recently made aware of a cybersecurity incident that occurred on December 28, 2024.

It involved unauthorized access to certain information with the PowerSchool Student Information System (SIS). While utilized by our schools, this system is maintained and administered by a third-party provider, which is responsible for its security.

What Happened:

- On Tuesday, January 7, OCE was notified by PowerSchool of a data breach that exposed its customer data.
- An unauthorized party gained access to certain PowerSchool SIS customer data using a compromised credential.
- PowerSchool does not anticipate the data being shared or made public and believes it has been deleted without any further replication or dissemination.

Data Impacted:

- The information accessed includes demographic data related to students and alumni. For a subset of students and alumni it also includes social security numbers.
- Based on the information available to us it appears that names, schools of affiliation, courses taken, and home addresses were exposed as a result of the breach.
- It does not appear that any banking information was compromised as it is not maintained in this system.

Steps Taken:

- PowerSchool immediately engaged its cybersecurity response protocols and mobilized a response team that includes law enforcement as well as third-party cyber security consultants.
- The compromised credential that led to this breach was deactivated by PowerSchool, and access to the affected portal has been restricted by PowerSchool.

Please know that we are committed to ensuring the safety and security of your information. We are in contact with PowerSchool and will continue to provide updates as they are available. This will include instructions on how to sign up for free credit report and identity theft monitoring.

If you have any questions, please contact databreachsupport@archphila-oce.org. Please know of my prayers for you and your families at the start of this new year.

Sincerely,

Mr. William E. Brannick
Superintendent of Secondary Schools and Schools of Special Education