

From: [Dennis Doyle](#)
To: [Leonie Haimson](#)
Cc: [Katherine Jedrlinic](#)
Subject: RE: questions re PowerSchool breach
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 4:59:48 PM

Hi Leonie,

I've tried my best to respond to each of your questions below, in red.

Regards,
Dennis

From: Leonie Haimson <leonie@classsizematters.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 1:24 PM
To: Dennis Doyle <DDoyle6@schools.nyc.gov>
Cc: Katherine Jedrlinic <KJedrlinic@schools.nyc.gov>; Leonie Haimson <leonie@classsizematters.org>
Subject: RE: questions re PowerSchool breach

Dear Dennis: Thanks for the info. Some follow-up questions:

1. How does DOE or individual schools for that matter know how to contact former students? And if you don't know how many former students were affected, how do you know they have been alerted? **We sent notifications by mail to the address we have on file for the impacted student, whether current or former.**
2. Why are the names of the affected schools still not listed on the DOE website, especially given that the state [recommended this to be done](#), to get out the word as broadly as possible? **Impacted students and staff received direct notification by mail and the impacted schools separately informed the school community that their school was impacted. The state recommended putting a notice about the incident on our [web page](#), which we did.**
3. Why did it take so long for DOE to alert parents and students in general, given that you knew about the breach in January but didn't send out letters until the week of April 1? **It took longer than expected to receive the necessary data from PowerSchool to (a) confirm that our students were in fact impacted and (b) identify those students and the data of theirs that was impacted so we could notify them appropriately. As soon as we received that information, we then had to do a data match against our own records to know where to send the notifications. We also had to translate the notification letters into the home language for each of the impacted students.**
4. What oversight does DOE maintain to ensure that PowerSchool and vendors in general to hold to the security protections in their contracts, especially given the weak language in its privacy addendum? This breach revealed that PowerSchool failed to use the most basic security measures, like multi-factor authentication, leading to [least 23 lawsuits](#), including many states with far less protective privacy laws than NY. Clearly, they did not employ data minimization or deletion, as the law requires, given that the data of former students was breached. **Our vendors undergo a security review conducted by DIIT and, for those storing data in the cloud, a cloud review**

conducted by OTI.

5. Do you intend to ask PowerSchool to revise their privacy addendum to fully comply with Ed Law 2D, and/or to take any other actions to discourage schools to use the other 16 PowerSchool products posted on your website that DOE has made available to schools, many of them with access to extremely sensitive teacher and student data? **As I stated earlier, our data-processing agreement with PowerSchool requires them to fully comply with Ed Law 2-d, notwithstanding any response to the contrary in the supplemental questionnaire.**

Finally, do you intend to further revise the proposed amendments to Chancellor's regulation A-820, and if so, when do you expect those revisions to be posted for public comment?

Yes, we are in the process of making further revisions and expect to post them for public comment as soon as they're ready.

I hope to finish my blog post by Friday so any further info you can make available by then would be appreciated.

Thanks again,

Leonie Haimson
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Host of "[Talk out of School](#)" WBAI radio show and podcast

From: Dennis Doyle <DDoyle6@schools.nyc.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 12:13 PM

To: Leonie Haimson <leonie@classsizematters.org>

Cc: Katherine Jedrlinic <KJedrlinic@schools.nyc.gov>

Subject: RE: questions re PowerSchool breach

Hi Leonie,

We posted the update to our data security incidents page on April 3rd. Some of the impacted students were former students (I don't have an exact number), and it's possible the impacted data goes as far back as the 2021-22 school year. We mailed notifications to impacted students and staff at the beginning of April.

I recognize your concerns with the language in PowerSchool's supplemental questionnaire. With that said, the terms of our data-processing agreement with PowerSchool require

PowerSchool to comply with FERPA, 2-d, A-820, and our privacy policies without exception. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the two, the terms of our data-processing agreement control.

Regards,
Dennis

From: Leonie Haimson <leonie@classsizematters.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2025 3:07 PM
To: Dennis Doyle <DDoyle6@schools.nyc.gov>
Cc: Katherine Jedrlnic <KJedrlnic@schools.nyc.gov>; Leonie Haimson <leonie@classsizematters.org>
Subject: questions re PowerSchool breach

Hi Dennis:

I intend to write something on the PowerSchool breach on my blog; I note that sometime after March 28, DOE [posted an update on its website](#), still refusing to specify which schools were affected, but confirming that the breach exposed the data of “approximately 3,437 students and 317 staff.”

When was this update posted, and did you determine if former students had their data breached as well? If so, how many years back, have they been alerted, and if so, how?

Also, does DOE intend to do anything about the PowerSchool contractual language which I pointed out to you months before the breach, which says that the company will only comply with federal and state privacy laws that they determine are “commercially reasonable”?

According to the [posting on the DOE website](#), the company supplies 17 programs to NYC schools which are provided access to sensitive personal data of students and teachers.

Thanks,

Leonie Haimson
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