

# Technology and Information Data Safety

1 message

**Mansfield Public Schools**

Reply-To: noreply@mansfieldct.org

Fri, May 9, 2025 at 5:53 PM

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Dear Mansfield Public School Community,

We are writing to share with you about two technology related safety items.

First, we are providing an update regarding the PowerSchool data breach that we informed you of in January. PowerSchool has shared with us that a third party has reached out to some school districts attempting to extort them using the breach reported in January. It has been publicly disclosed that this included school districts in North Carolina and in Canada. No Connecticut School Districts have reported being contacted, however we wanted to make you aware of this new development.

We do not store social security numbers nor financial information in PowerSchool, but as we shared in January, it may have included student and staff contact data such as names and emails/addresses/phones (we do not store student cell phone numbers); and student demographic data such as birthdate, grade level, and race/gender. Third-party programs that are connected to PowerSchool, such as our food services program, LINQ, were not impacted by this breach.

We sometimes receive inquiries about what steps families can take to safeguard their child's identity and their own; and also what steps staff can take to safeguard their own identities. While this is an individual decision, there are resources that we encourage families and staff to consider:

- PowerSchool is offering credit monitoring and identity protection services from Experian at no cost for two years at <https://www.powerschool.com/security/sis-incident/notice-of-united-states-data-breach>. While this is an individual decision, given the prevalence of data breaches in today's world, we encourage you to consider this offering.
- The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) encourages everyone to limit access to their credit by considering a credit freeze. This is available at no cost and is explained at <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/credit-freeze-or-fraud-alert-whats-right-your-credit-report>.
- The FTC also provides information specific to protecting children from identity theft at <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-protect-your-child-identity-theft>.
- Finally, the FTC and the State of Connecticut provide identity theft protection tips at these two websites:
  - <https://consumer.ftc.gov/identity-theft-and-online-security/identity-theft>
  - <https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/common-elements/common-elements/how-you-can-safeguard-your-identity>

Second, as you may have seen in the news, there is a TikTok trend where children are risking personal injury by attempting to create electrical short circuits in Chromebooks, smartphones, and other electronic equipment by inserting items such as paper clips, aluminum foil, or similar items into ports or breaking open the device to gain entry. These actions can cause sparks and pose a serious fire hazard resulting in injuries. While we are not aware of this occurring in Mansfield, given the prevalence of this story in the news, your child may have heard of this trend and we encourage you to consider speaking to your child about the dangers of the physical misuse of electronic equipment.

We take the privacy, security, and safety of our community members very seriously. If you have any immediate questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jaime Russell  
Director of Information Technology  
Mansfield Public School District  
[Russell.JL@mansfieldct.org](mailto:Russell.JL@mansfieldct.org)

Peter Dart  
Superintendent of Schools  
Mansfield Public Schools  
[mboesupt@mansfieldct.org](mailto:mboesupt@mansfieldct.org)