

Subject of the Email: Notice of Data Breach

Dear Parent of <<name>>:

Central School District (the “District”) is committed to protecting the confidentiality and security of our students’ information and that of their parents. We are writing to address a recent incident that involved your data. This notice explains the incident, measures that have been taken, and why you will be required to change your parent and student passwords.

What Happened?

The District uses the Aeries Student Information System to provide students and their parents with online access to information regarding school events and schedules. In late November 2019, Aeries learned that an unauthorized individual exploited a vulnerability in the Aeries software that would allow access to student and parent information. Upon discovery, Aeries began an investigation and law enforcement launched an investigation to identify the person responsible, who Aeries believes is now in police custody. On April 27, 2020, Aeries notified us that this individual may have accessed the District’s Aeries System hosted by Aeries software. This incident did not involve District systems and we have no evidence that the District’s network has been breached.

What Information Was Involved?

The information accessed by the perpetrator potentially included parent and/or student name, home address, phone number, email address and hashed password – a form of rendering the actual password indecipherable to third parties – for the Aeries System.

What You Can Do

Even though we have no evidence that your personal information has been misused, we wanted to let you know this happened and assure you we take it very seriously. Even though the password itself was not accessed, it is possible that an individual with enough time and skill could eventually decipher the password. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, we are forcing all parents and students to change their portal account passwords. Please be on the lookout for an email from DoNotReply@aeries.com. This email will contain a link to create a new password. Additionally, if you use the same password for other online accounts, we recommend changing the password for those accounts as well.

What We Are Doing

We understand the importance of protecting the privacy and security of personal information, and we regret any inconvenience or concern this incident may cause. To help prevent something like this from happening again in the future, Aeries has installed a software patch on their systems to remedy the vulnerability that allowed the unauthorized individual to access our Aeries data. In addition, we and Aeries are reviewing our existing policies and procedures to mitigate any risk associated with this incident and to better prevent future incidents. The district is making changes to require passwords be changed more often with more strict requirements.

For More Information

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you. If you have any questions, please call 909-484-5301 or email AeriesDataBreach@csd.k12.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Rusty Mineer
Technology Coordinator
Central School District