



Dr. Edythe B. Austermuhl
Superintendent

BERLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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January 25, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to inform you that on January 18, 2018 about 1:30 pm a security breach to the Pearson SuccessNet online program for JFK Elementary School was discovered by our Supervisor of Curriculum and Technology Coordinator. They immediately contacted Pearson to report this and changed the security parameters permitted by our district administrators of this account.

We are writing to you at this time according to our policy requirements and FERPA laws. Any breach of student identifying information must be reported to parents/guardians. The person who accessed our JFK account by the nature of the program's set-up, had access to student names, grade levels, user names and local ids for this program only. **NO Social Security Numbers, Student Addresses, Birthdates, or Phone Numbers are stored within this program and therefore were not at risk.** We have worked with Pearson over the past few days to ascertain what was viewed by this "unauthorized" user and Pearson is not able to give us any information. The account was closed immediately upon discovery on January 18, 2018.

We have no reason to believe that any information was viewed or used for malicious purposes. No one in district has reported any unusual activity regarding Pearson SuccessNet such as students or teachers not having access to their books, or other materials associated with this program. While this breach is considered a Tier 1 matter, the district has reported it to the NJCCIC (New Jersey Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Cell -- <https://www.cyber.nj.gov/>) as required. Additionally, the Board Solicitor has been notified of this issue and is working with us to further safeguard our student and staff information.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Edythe B. Austermuhl, Ed. D.
Superintendent

"Educating Today For Tomorrow's Success"

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