



DeRuyter Central School

Home of the Rockets

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Kimberly O'Brien
Director of Curriculum and
Instruction

David M. Brown, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Jenny Valente
K-5 Principal/Director
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August 28, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians/Eligible Students:

The DeRuyter Central School District uses a number of digital learning tools to provide our students with the best possible educational experience. One of those tools is a student assessment program called AIMSweb, a product of Pearson Education, Inc. We have been advised that Pearson has discovered student information, stored by Pearson in the AIMSweb 1.0 platform (an earlier version than what we are using now), was accessed by unauthorized users. We are sending you this letter because we believe that information regarding a child of yours was among the information that was accessed without authorization.

Working with the instructional technology support team at the Central New York Regional Information Center, this is what we know:

- The unauthorized access occurred in November 2018. DeRuyter received notification that our data was breached on August 28, 2019; and
- The records of approximately 483 DeRuyter Central School students were accessed without authorization; and
- The information about each student accessed by unauthorized users was the **student's first and last names, the student's date of birth, and the student's school ID number**; and
- The unauthorized users gained access to student information stored in an older version of the software called AIMSweb 1.0, and the information stored in the software version AIMSweb Plus, currently used by the District, was not accessed; and
- This breach of Pearson's digital security has affected numerous school districts in several states.

Please know that the DeRuyter Central School District is committed to protecting and securing educational data. Our team has extensive training in data security and privacy, and our systems have many controls in place to protect your child's educational records. Additionally, we have also received assurances that Pearson has taken the necessary steps to mitigate the incident and is enhancing protections to guard against similar events.

While it is our understanding that there is no evidence that the information described above has been misused, Pearson is offering complimentary credit monitoring from Experian for one year for affected individuals as a precautionary measure. If you are interested in learning more about this option, please call Pearson at 866-883-3309 and reference case number **PF7N9N97G**.

Please contact myself, Kim O'Brien, or your Building Principal with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. David M. Brown
Superintendent of School

cc: DCS Board of Education

DeRuyter Central School = District Committed to Success

Board of Education: Dean Hathaway, President; Bradley Mierke, Vice President; Members - Brandi Compton, Richard Metcalf, Jodi Wiesing