



*More You
Know Mondays*

SEYMOUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
www.seymourschools.org

PowerSchool

November 12, 2018

What is PowerSchool?

PowerSchool is a student information system that houses all of our student data from attendance to contact information and historical grades.

What is the Parent Portal?

The Parent Portal is the public portion of PowerSchool. It is your window into your child's performance at school. The primary way to access the Parent Portal is to use a computer and web-browser and

log in using the information provided by your child's school. Certain features are unavailable in the app version of PowerSchool such as the demographic update page.

Didn't we have a student information system before PowerSchool?

This is our third year using PowerSchool. Before PowerSchool we used a software product called Rediker in combination with another product called EdLine.

So why did we switch?

- PowerSchool is what 85% of the school districts in Connecticut currently use for their student information system. Many times throughout the school year we are required to submit reports to the state on attendance, demographic enrollment and other information. With such a large number of districts using PowerSchool in Connecticut, the state actually works with PowerSchool to develop the reports to come directly out of PowerSchool in the format that is required. Our old student information system many times required us to do this somewhat manually.
- Cost, there was a substantial savings to the district in switching to PowerSchool. We got more functionality and ease of use at a lower annual price.
- The main advantage to PowerSchool is that it is what people in the industry call open source. This means that there is a large community of users that create customized reports, screens and other resources to share with the other users of PowerSchool for free!

I am concerned about the sharing of student data, what measures are in place to ensure privacy?

The Seymour Public Schools take your privacy as well as your child's privacy very seriously. As such we do not share data that contains personally identifiable information with any third party entities. We work hard to make sure that we in compliance with FERPA and Connecticut State laws regarding student data privacy.

Why does the Parent Portal close down periodically?

When the marking periods close, the Parent Portal is shut down for a period of time to allow teachers to enter grades and comments. Once all information is entered and double-checked, the portal is re-opened.

Why is it important to make sure my demographic information is always up to date in PowerSchool?

We pull our contact information for our RoboCall and email lists from PowerSchool. If your information is incorrect in PowerSchool it is likely that you will not get important calls and information. You can check and update your information through the "Demographics Update" tab at the top of the parent portal.

Who should I call if I have questions about PowerSchool?

Your building administrators can help you with many questions related to PowerSchool.