

# UNITED STATES JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

## In re PowerSchool Holdings, Inc. and PowerSchool Group, LLC Customer Data Security Breach Litigation

MDL No. 3149 · No. MDL No. 3149 · Decided April 18, 2025

### SUMMARY

The Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation orders centralization of litigation arising from the PowerSchool customer data security breach. The Panel transfers the listed actions to the Southern District of California and assigns them to Judge Roger T. Benitez for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 1407.

### CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation                                                                                                                                                            |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Karen K. Caldwell; Nathaniel M. Gorton; Matthew F. Kennelly; David C. Norton; Dale A. Kimball; Madeline Cox Arleo                                                                                                   |
| JURISDICTION          | Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation; federal                                                                                                                                                                 |
| DECIDED               | April 18, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| DOCKET                | MDL No. 3149                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Plaintiffs moved under 28 U.S.C. § 1407 to centralize 32 related data-security-breach actions pending in three federal districts, along with related actions, for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | Unknown                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| PARTIES               | Plaintiffs in the Western District of Missouri J.J. action listed on Schedule A v. PowerSchool Holdings, Inc., PowerSchool Group LLC                                                                                |

### TOPICS

[civil procedure](#) [class actions](#) [consumer protection](#) [negligence](#) [breach of contract](#)

### PRACTICE AREAS

[multidistrict litigation](#) [civil procedure](#) [data security and privacy](#) [consumer protection](#) [torts](#) [contracts](#)

### QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the actions involve common questions of fact warranting centralization under 28 U.S.C. § 1407.
2. Whether centralization in the Southern District of California would serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses and promote the just and efficient conduct of the litigation.
3. Whether informal coordination or transfer under 28 U.S.C. § 1404 would be preferable to multidistrict centralization.

## HOLDINGS

1. Centralization was warranted because the actions involved common questions of fact arising from the same PowerSchool cybersecurity incident and presented substantially overlapping claims and discovery issues.
2. The Southern District of California was an appropriate transferee district for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings.
3. Informal coordination was not shown to be the most efficient method of resolving the litigation.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that actions listed on Schedule A are transferred to the Southern District of California and, with the consent of that court, assigned to the Honorable Roger T. Benitez for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings.”*

*“We are confident that he will steer this litigation on a prudent and expeditious course.”*

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The actions arise from a cybersecurity incident involving unauthorized access to PowerSchool's Student Information System, which stores personal information concerning current and former students and school staff. Plaintiffs seek nationwide and statewide class certification and assert substantially identical claims for negligence, breach of contract, and unjust enrichment. Discovery is expected to address how and when the breach occurred, the adequacy of PowerSchool's data-security practices, and the timing and sufficiency of notice to affected individuals.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Panel considered the papers filed and held a hearing session on the motion to centralize the litigation. It granted centralization and transferred the actions listed on Schedule A to the Southern District of California, with that court's consent, for assignment to Judge Roger T. Benitez.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

- In re StockX Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig., 412 F. Supp. 3d 1363 (J.P.M.L. 2019)
- In re [24]7.AI, Inc., Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig., 338 F. Supp. 3d 1345 (J.P.M.L. 2018)
- In re Hudson's Bay Co. Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig., 326 F. Supp. 3d 1372 (J.P.M.L. 2018)
- In re Best Buy Co., Cal. Song-Beverly Credit Card Act Litig., 804 F. Supp. 2d 1376 (J.P.M.L. 2011)

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