

CHILDREN OF DIVORCED/SEPARATED PARENTS AND PARENTS NOT SHARING THE SAME HOUSEHOLD

Policy 491

Waunakee Community School District

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The District recognizes the importance of parent participation and involvement in the education of their children. When parents are involved in a legal action affecting the family such as divorce or legal separation, it is important for the District to have the information necessary to make appropriate decisions regarding their child(ren)'s educational program and parent involvement in the schools.

The District shall maintain neutrality between parents who are or have been involved in a legal action affecting the family, unless otherwise directed by a court order or other legally binding document. It is the responsibility of a student's parent(s) to notify their child's-building principal or designee of any court document restricting a parent's rights. Upon receipt of such document, the building principal or designee shall inform classroom teachers and other staff, as appropriate, of any restrictions placed on a parent's access to a student, access to a student's school records, or participation in school-related activities.

The parent of any student enrolled in a school subject to District control may be provided all report cards, notices of school activities, disciplinary reports, conference appointments or summaries, or other student records, unless otherwise expressly curtailed or restricted by a provision of a court order or other legally binding document that has been provided to the District. The parent may participate in all school activities related to their child, including conferences, unless a court order or other legally binding document provides otherwise. The school generally will conduct only one conference meeting for parents at appropriate times in which both parents of a student will be permitted to participate. Exceptions may be permitted as agreed to by school personnel.

A student enrolled in the District may be released from school to either parent, unless a court order or other legally binding document has been provided to the District that prohibits such a release. The building principal or designee shall not allow a parent to remove a student from school if the school has been notified that the parent has been denied periods of physical placement with the student. If such parent requests to remove his/her child from school during the school day, or takes other action to do so, local law enforcement authorities shall be contacted immediately by the building principal or designee.

Each parent is individually responsible for observing his/her respective parenting rights, obligations, and restrictions in all of the parent's interactions with the District. As a general rule, if one parent believes that the other parent is acting in a manner that is inconsistent with such rights, obligations, or restrictions, his/her primary method of obtaining recourse is to seek enforcement of applicable laws, court orders, and applicable agreements by involving law enforcement and/or the courts. Further, if parents disagree with one another about their respective rights, obligations, or restrictions, it is the responsibility of the parents to obtain appropriate clarifications of, or modifications to, any applicable agreements or court orders through the family court system.

Parents of students enrolled in District schools shall be informed of this policy via student and parent handbooks or through other appropriate means as determined by the building principal.

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Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

[Section 118.125\(2\)\(m\)](#) [access to student records by parents denied periods of physical placement]

[Section 767.41](#) [child custody and physical placement]

[Section 767.41\(7\)](#) [parent access to records]

Federal Laws

[20 U.S.C. § 1232\(g\)](#) [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; the federal student records law]

[34 C.F.R. part 99](#) [U.S. Department of Education FERPA regulations]

Cross References:

WASB PRG 491 Sample Policy 2
347-Rule, Student Records Procedures

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