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Book Policy Manual

Section Second Reading by Board

Title STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE

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4213 - STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE

Support staff members may be confronted with situations which, if handled incorrectly, could result in liability to the District, personal liability to the staff member, and/or harm to the welfare of the student(s). It is the intent of the Board to direct the preparation of guidelines that would minimize that possibility.

A support staff member, or a person who works or volunteers with children, who is found to have had sexual contact with any student shall be referred to the proper authorities and be subject to discipline up to and including discharge.

This policy should not be construed as affecting any obligation on the part of staff to report suspected child abuse under 48.981 Wis. Stats. and Policy 8462 - Child Abuse and Neglect.

District support staff members shall maintain a standard of care for the supervision, control, and protection of students commensurate with their assigned duties and responsibilities which include, but are not limited to the following standards:

- A. Support staff members shall report immediately any accident or safety hazard about which they are informed or detect to their supervisor as well as to other authorities or District staff members as may be required by established policies and procedures.
- B. Support staff members shall report unsafe, potentially harmful, dangerous, violent or criminal activities, or threat of these activities by students to the Superintendent and local public safety agencies and/or school officials in accordance with Policy 8420 School Safety and Emergency Preparedness. Additionally, each support staff member shall also promptly report to the Principal any knowledge of threats of violence by students.
- C. Support staff should not volunteer to take on responsibilities they are not reasonably qualified for or able to perform. Voluntarily assuming such duties carries the same level of accountability as formally assigned responsibilities.
- D. Support staff members shall not send students on any personal errands.
- E. Support staff members shall not associate with students at any time in a manner which gives the appearance of impropriety, including, but not limited to, the creation or participation in any situation or activity which could be considered abusive or sexually suggestive or involve illegal substances such as tobacco, alcohol, or drugs. Any sexual or other inappropriate conduct with a student by any staff member will subject the offender to potential criminal liability and discipline up to and including termination of employment.

This provision should not be construed as precluding a support staff member from associating with students in private for legitimate or proper reasons or to interfere with familial relationships that may exist between staff and students.

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F. Support staff members shall not disclose personally identifiable information about a student to third parties unless specifically authorized by law or the student's parent(s) to do so.

- G. Support staff members shall not transport students for school-related activities in a private vehicle without the approval of their immediate supervisor and consistent with the provisions of Policy 8660 Transportation by Private Vehicle for District-Sponsored Activities or Trips. This does not apply to any student who is a support staff member's family member.
- H. Students shall not be required to perform work or services that may be detrimental to their health.
- I. Staff members are discouraged from engaging students in social media and online networking media (see also Policy 7544 Use of Social Media), except for appropriate academic, extra-curricular, and/or professional uses consistent with Policy 7540 Technology, Policy 7540.03 Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, and/or Policy 7540.04 Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety.
- J. Staff members are expressly prohibited from posting any picture, video, meme, or other visual depiction, or comment pertaining to any student on social networking media or similar forums without the permission of the administration. This provision of the policy does not apply to pictures and/or videos taken of public events that may involve, or incidentally include, depictions of students participating in or observing such event where the purpose of the photo or video is to depict the event, not a particular student. This section does not apply to depictions of a support staff member's own child or other relative.

Since most information concerning a child in school, other than directory information described in Policy 8330 - Student Records, is a confidential student record under Federal and State laws, a staff member who shares confidential information with another person not authorized to receive the information may be subject to discipline and/or civil liability. This includes, but is not limited to, information concerning assessments, grades, behavior, family background, and alleged child abuse.

Pursuant to the laws of the State and Board Policy 8462 - Child Abuse and Neglect, each support staff member shall report to the proper legal authorities immediately, any sign of suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

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Legal 48.981, 948, 948.095 Wis. Stats.

Cross References <u>ag4213 - LIABILITY OF STAFF FOR STUDENT WELFARE</u>

Last Modified by Ellen Suckow on September 22, 2025