



Policy Review

WSD 5540-Schools and Governmental Agencies

February 10, 2025





Where are we at now?

- Every student who comes through our doors, no matter their situation, has a right to a free education under the law.
- Wausau School District *Policy 5540-Schools and Governmental Agencies* allows our district to provide a safe space for for every child and also remain in alignment with local, state, and federal laws.
- The Wausau School District has existing policies and procedures in place to address any unknown visitor.
- There have been rumors that ICE Agents were at our buildings.

This is not true.

FALSE



What have we done?

- **Communicated and clarified procedures -- including Policy 5540 with building administrators and pupil services staff.**
- **Communicated with all staff to address the misinformation, reviewed policy, and shared DPI information.**
 - **Reminded them that one of the most important things we can all do right now is to support each other, and most importantly, support our students. We urged them to continue to help all students learn, achieve, and succeed.**



DPI: Jan. 24th Support & Resources



What will continue?

We will continue to do what we have always done:

- **maintain safe and supportive learning environments for all of our students**
- **provide relevant and updated information to our staff and families when misinformation is reported**
- **follow our existing policies and procedures to ensure our students are safe**
- **communicate with our local law enforcement**



What to know...

State Statute

- Schools may not turn over personally identifiable information to police, federal agents, or immigration officials without written consent from the parent or caregiver unless a warrant or subpoena is presented that specifies the individual by name and the information being requested (Wis. §118.125).



What to know...

WSD Policy 5540

- The administrator shall determine whether it is appropriate to provide access to the student based on the officer's purpose, whether the officer has stated that there is an emergency involving imminent threat, or that the officer is in possession of a valid warrant. A warrant shall be deemed valid if executed by a judicial officer and describes the school premises.
- If law enforcement officer is in possession of a valid warrant, school officials shall in no way interfere with the officer's execution of the warrant.
- A warrant shall be considered "valid" if it accurately describes the school facility and is executed by an authorized judicial official.
- District officials shall not attempt to evaluate the sufficiency of probable cause upon which the warrant is based



What if?

What if an ICE agent comes to one of our buildings?

- **Staff will follow the same process as any unknown person requesting access to one of our school buildings.**
- **If the person is representing themselves as an ICE Agent:**
 - **The building administrator will be contacted to address the visitor and wait with them until an administrator from Longfellow and a Wausau School District SRO, or representative from local law enforcement, is on site to determine whether a warrant is lawful**
 - **The District may also seek legal counsel to assist in determining if any warrant present is lawful**

Our top priority is to preserve a safe learning environment for all students in a manner that complies with local, state, and federal laws.



Questions?

