

Book Policies  
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### **Parental Rights in Education**

The Laramie County School District Number 1 Board of Trustees recognizes the fundamental right of parents to make decisions regarding the care and control of their children. This policy strives to outline the rights of parents related to notification and records of their students, including those rights described in Wyoming Statute § 21-3-135. Parents and guardians will be notified annually of their right to file a complaint if they believe their rights as described in this policy have been violated. The procedures for filing a complaint related to the rights in this Policy are described in Chapter 2, Section 10, article IV.

#### **Definitions**

“**Actual knowledge**” means notice of a change (as defined in this policy) to any school employee. An employee shall be deemed to have actual knowledge if: a) a person reports a purported change in a student’s health or well-being to a school employee, and the purported change is verified by a school employee with authority to investigate or determine whether the change has occurred; or b) an employee directly observes the purported change, and a reasonably observant person would notice the purported change.

**“As soon as practicable”** Except in cases of suspected child abuse or neglect, “as soon as practicable” shall mean as soon as reasonably capable of being accomplished given the normal constraints involved with such an action and without undue delay. Unless otherwise specified by this policy, “as soon as practicable” shall mean not more than forty-eight (48) hours or not more than two (2) business days after the purported change is verified or observed by a School District employee, whichever is greater. For any change in a student’s health or well-being where a School District employee reasonably believes the change is the result of suspected abuse or neglect of the student which will result in a report to law enforcement or DFS, the phrase “as soon as practicable” shall mean after the School District reports the suspected abuse to law enforcement or DFS as required by Wyoming Statute § 14-3-205, and after either law enforcement or DFS authorizes the District to notify the parents.

**“Change”** “Change” in a student’s educational, physical, mental, or emotional health or well-being is any change that meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. It poses a risk or threat to the student’s safety, health, or welfare, or to the safety, health, or welfare of others.
2. It is a mental health or medical condition that necessitates intervention or treatment at school or follow-up with a community mental health worker, therapist or medical provider. It requires a modification of the student’s educational program, services, or supports, or the provision of additional or specialized services or supports, such as special education, counseling, healthcare, or social work.

3. It affects the student's access, eligibility, participation, or performance in the School District's education program; or academic, extracurricular, or co-curricular activities; or in assessments or evaluations.
4. It involves a disciplinary action, sanction, or consequence for the student, such as detention, suspension (in-school and out-of-school), expulsion, or referral to law enforcement.
5. It results from a complaint, allegation, or investigation involving the student, such as bullying, harassment, discrimination, or violation of rights.

**“Day”** shall mean one business day.

**“Gender Identity”** means an individual's personal sense of their own gender.

**“Health screening tool”** means any diagnostic assessment that detects pre-clinical mental or physiological illness or disease.

**“Instruction”** is the action, practice, or profession of teaching which includes planned teaching addressing gender identity or sexual orientation but does not include:

1. Responding to a question from a student during class regarding sexual orientation or gender identity as it relates to any topic of instruction; or
2. Referring to the sexual orientation or gender identity of any historic person, group, public figure, or fictional character where the reference provides necessary context in relation to a topic of instruction;
3. Student-generated schoolwork;
4. Student-to-student speech;
5. Classroom references to a person's family;

6. Library books;
7. Extra-curricular, co-curricular, or student clubs; or
8. Dual Enrollment courses taken at a college.

“**Parent**” includes parents, legal guardians, and legal custodians of students who are under eighteen (18) years old and who have not been emancipated.

“**Sexual Orientation**” refers to an individual’s enduring pattern of emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to others.

“**Well-being Questionnaire**” means a validated tool used to assess an individual's overall well-being across various domains of life. It typically consists of a series of questions designed to measure different aspects of well-being, such as physical health, mental health, social relationships, emotional well-being, and life satisfaction. These questionnaires may use Likert scales, multiple-choice questions, or open-ended questions to gather information about an individual's experiences, feelings, and perceptions related to their well-being. Well-being questionnaires do not include informal, building-created processes, or “quick-checks” used to assess classroom or school climate.

### **Discussions Related to Student Well-Being**

When issues of a student’s well-being arise, school personnel shall encourage the student to discuss the issues with their parent. As appropriate, school personnel may facilitate discussions of such issues with parents. In accordance with Wyoming Statute § 21-3-135(a)(iv) the District shall not adopt nor implement any formal or informal rule, policies, practices or procedures that direct, encourage, or have the effect of encouraging,

a student to withhold from a parent information about the student's educational, physical, mental or emotional health or well-being.

### **Parental Notification of Changes in Student's Health or Well-Being**

Any District employee who has actual knowledge of a change in a student's educational, physical, mental or emotional health or well-being shall report the change to the School Administrator or their designee. The School Administrator or designee shall determine who will notify the parent of the student and shall notify a student's parent as soon as practicable if a school district employee has actual knowledge of a change in the student's educational, physical, mental or emotional health or well-being. The School Administrator shall document the notification.

The Superintendent shall develop through administrative regulations procedures and criteria which further clarify or define whether a reported change constitutes a change in a student's health or well-being under this policy.

Notification may be made via phone, in-person, District messaging system, or email, depending on the urgency and nature of the change. The School Administrator will document the notification and the parents' response.

In accordance with Wyoming Statute § 21-3-135(a)(iii), the District will not adopt or implement any formal or informal rules, policies, practices, or procedures that prohibit school district personnel from notifying a student's parent or guardian about the student's educational, physical, mental or emotional health or well-being, or a change in the student's related services as authorized under statute.

If a parent asks a District employee about the health or well-being of the parent's child, the employee shall not misrepresent or provide false information about the parent's child.

### **Parental Permission to Participate in Instruction**

In order to ensure transparency and respect for parental rights when providing instruction on sensitive topics, the District will obtain written or electronic parental consent at least one (1) day prior to any training, course, or class that addresses sexual orientation and gender identity.

The District will notify parents at least two (2) days prior to any planned instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity. Notification methods may include course syllabi, letters, emails, or other announcements through official channels. Parents will receive an overview of the content covered in the training, course, or class including objectives, materials, and planned discussions related to sexual orientation or gender identity. The overview will emphasize the educational purpose and sensitivity of the topic.

Schools will provide alternative educational activities for students whose parents do not provide consent to the instruction of the subjects described in this section. These alternatives should align with the overall learning objectives of the instruction and ensure that students do not miss essential learning opportunities.

### **Parental Notification of Routine Health Care Services**

In accordance with Wyoming Statute § 21-3-135(b), at the beginning of each school year the District will provide parents and guardians notice of each routine health care service provided by the District and the means for parents to withhold consent or decline

any specific services. Consent to a routine health care service does not waive the parent or guardian's right to access the student's education or health care records, or to be notified of a change in the student's educational, physical, mental, or emotional health or well-being. Routine health care services do not include the rendering of first aid or summoning of emergency responders in case of sudden need.

### **Student Well-Being Questionnaires and Health Screening Tools**

In accordance with Wyoming Statute § 21-3-135(c), prior to administering any well-being questionnaire or health screening tool to students, the District will make available a copy of the questionnaire or information on the health screening tool and obtain written, electronic or verbal consent from the parent. Health screening tools that do not require parental permission include audiology, vision, scoliosis or body mass index assessments required by federal law. If a parent does not want their child to participate in these required assessments, the parent must specifically notify their child's school in writing.

### **Student Records**

In accordance with Wyoming Statute § 21-3-135(a)(ii) the District shall not prohibit parents from accessing any of their student's records created, maintained, or used by the school district. Parents shall be provided access to their student's education, behavior, health and other records within a reasonable time. For information on the process of requesting student records please see the District's Board Policy Chapter 8, Section 18.