

**Confidential Communications**

School staff must exercise a delicate balance regarding the treatment of information that is revealed in confidence. A staff member may, in his or her professional judgment, treat information received from a student as confidential while at other times decide to disclose what was learned to school administration, law enforcement officers, Child Protective Services (CPS), other staff members, or the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).

The staff member should advise the student regarding the limitations and restrictions regarding confidentiality.

Information provided in confidence by a student shall be handled as confidential unless, in the judgment of a professional, holding the information confidential might pose a threat to the health, safety, and well-being of the student or others or violate the law. Whenever appropriate, the student should be encouraged to share confidences with his/her parent(s)/guardian(s).

The board directs the superintendent to prepare appropriate regulations to implement this policy.

**Cross References:**

- (cf.: 2140 – Guidance and Counseling)
- (cf.: 2167 – Substance Abuse Program)
- (cf.: 3414 – Infectious Diseases)
- (cf.: 3443 – Suicide Awareness and Prevention)
- (cf.: 3600 – Student Records)
- (cf.: 3605 – Release of Student Directory Information)
- (cf.: 3610 – Child Custody)
- (cf.: 4340 – Public Access to District Records)
- (cf.: 5230 – Certificated and Classified Staff Personnel Records)

**Legal References:**

RCW 26.44.030 Reports—Duty and authority to make

WAC 246-100-071 Responsibility for reporting to and cooperating with local health  
department

WAC 392-171-586 to 641 Education for Handicapped Children - Records

20 USC, Section 1232g, et seq.

34 CFR, Sections 99.1, et seq.

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