



Wyomissing Area School District

630 Evans Ave. · Wyomissing · Pennsylvania 19610
(P) 610.374.0739 · (F) 610.374.0948 · (W) www.wyoarea.org

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District Statement

The District wishes to respond to the recent newspaper article in the *Reading Eagle* regarding an incident that occurred two months ago in its Junior-Senior High School. The article generated both questions and concerns among students' parents and some community members. Moreover, some rumors have circulated throughout the community about this incident which have led some to question why they were not notified about this incident immediately after it occurred.

First, the safety of our students is of the utmost importance to the School Board, Administration and District staff. We take seriously our responsibility to protect your children when they come to school. All parties are committed to timely notifications to parents of incidents and events that may potentially impact the student body either in a particular school or across the District. The District's messaging system, eAlert, is used to notify parents when such school-wide or District-wide incidents or events occur. In this instance, the building administration was immediately notified. They immediately contacted the proper authorities. At all times, building and student safety was maintained. Because this was an isolated incident that was properly handled by the administration without widespread disruption, the eAlert system was not used.

Second, the federal Family Education Right to Privacy Act ("FERPA"), and its implementing regulations, designate personally identifiable information about students as confidential. FERPA-protected student information generally cannot be disclosed without prior parental consent. These FERPA confidentiality protections apply to student disciplinary incidents and records. The District cannot, and will not, publicly disclose the details regarding the disposition of any student disciplinary incident. The District must respect the confidentiality rights of every student in a manner that complies with this law.

Finally, the School Board and Administration have discussed and reviewed its existing policies and procedures relating to student discipline. The District wants to ensure that its student disciplinary rules promote student safety, encourage an environment conducive to learning and ensure students receive the best possible educational services. In addition, all our students are afforded the due process rights to which they are entitled to under FERPA. We firmly believe this process strengthens our educational environment.

The Wyomissing Area School District remains committed to providing its students with a safe and secure educational environment.

The Wyomissing Area School Board of Directors and Administration