

Policy Statement on Parental Notification and Consent

The Nebraska State Board of Education, in its policy statement concerning School Counseling in Nebraska, emphasized the essential role of parents. The following statements address the collaborative effort of school counselors and parents in assisting students' growth and development.

1. Parents Right and Responsibilities

The School Counselor should:

- a. Respect the rights and responsibilities of parents/guardians for their children and should notify and involve parents before referring students to outside programs and services, including medical services, except in cases where services are standard and routine, or when notification represents a risk to the well being of the student. In cases where school-based health clinics exist, parents/guardians should be notified before referral to the clinic is made.
- b. Adheres to laws and local policies when assisting parents experiencing family difficulties that interfere with the student's effectiveness and welfare, and should be sensitive to cultural and social diversity among families.

2. Parents and Confidentiality

The School Counselor should:

- a. Inform parents of the counselor's role with emphasis on the confidential nature of the counseling relationship between the counselor and student.
- b. Provide parents with accurate, comprehensive and relevant information in an objective and caring manner, as is appropriate and consistent with ethical responsibilities to the student.
- c. Make reasonable efforts to honor the wishes of parents and guardians concerning information that he/she may share regarding the student.
- d. Acquire written authorization from parents for release of information, specifying the records to be released, reasons for such release, and to whom the records would be released.

Examples of Standard & Routine Services:

- information on post-secondary study options (armed forces, tech schools, colleges, apprenticeships, community colleges, etc)
- financial aid
- job service
- career information
- academic referral (to library, website, university, etc.)
- letter of recommendation
- volunteer work prospects
- leisure activities option
- people to interview for career perspective
- contacts for information pertaining to academic projects

Example of Potential Risk to the Well Being of the Student:

- cases of abuse/neglect when parent is suspected perpetrator
- information on alateen when parents may be the alcohol/drug abuser & student wants information
- threat of physical harm by the parent
- cases where parents may be involved in illegal activities & student requests assistance

Board Action History

- 6/7/02 – G6 (NEW)
(Based on policy statement adopted 2/11/2000.)

Cross-References

- 92 NAC 10
- 92 NAC 14
- 92 NAC 21
- 92 NAC 24
- G5