

Annual Notice Regarding Access to Records About School Employee Discipline

This new law also requires school boards to provide certain information to parents and guardians regarding records. Specifically, under Wis. Stat. s. 118.07(6)(b), it states that each school board shall annually provide parents and guardians with information regarding rights to access records regarding school employee discipline under sub ch. II of ch. 19 (the Wisconsin Public Records Law).

This law does not specify *how* school boards must provide information to parents or guardians on this issue. If school boards provide other annual notices to parents or guardians, such information regarding rights to access records about school employee discipline can also likely be provided to parents in the same manner.

It is important to note that, when and if a parent or guardian seeks access to records regarding school employee discipline, such a request for records does not necessarily guarantee access to such records. Any request should be reviewed carefully under the circumstances to determine whether disclosure is required, including under the balancing test under the Public Records Law. If disclosure is required, then the district must also consider whether notice is required to the employee under Wis. Stat. s. 19.356 before the district can provide access to the records.