



Book: Local Policies for Update

Section: Special Update - Act 57 - February 2026 WI

Title: Special Update - Act 57 - February 2026 OVERVIEW

Number: 01 - OVERVIEW

## **WISCONSIN OVERVIEW AND COMMENTS**

### **Special Update - Act 57**

#### **February 2026**

#### **Act 57 SUMMARY**

**This Special Update is issued to Neola Clients in response to 2025 Wisconsin Act 57, enacted in December 2025. Act 57 establishes strict new requirements for school districts regarding the notification of parents when a report of sexual misconduct by a staff member is received. Under this law, school boards, private schools, and charter operators must notify the parents of any student alleged to be a victim or target if there is "reasonable cause" to suspect the conduct occurred. The Act mandates a timely response, requiring notification by 5:00 p.m. the same day if a report is received during school hours, or by noon the following day if received after school hours. Additionally, it requires school districts to provide parents with annual information regarding their right to access school employee disciplinary records under Wisconsin's public records laws.**

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Please make any revisions in BoardDocs using the instructions provided to you. You may direct content-related questions to your Neola Associate. Questions regarding the software should be directed to the BoardDocs help desk staff.

If a District chooses not to adopt a policy or administrative guideline, the District is still obligated to comply with applicable Federal and State laws on that topic.

Any proposed new, revised, and replacement policies, administrative guidelines, and forms included in this update have been thoroughly prepared and reviewed by Neola's legal counsel for statutory compliance. If you make changes or substitute in their entirety policies or other materials of your own drafting, those materials should be reviewed by your legal counsel to verify compliance. Neola does not review District-specific edits to update materials or District-specific policies for statutory compliance.

If a policy or guideline is marked as a revision, the changes have been marked in bold (to add material) and crossed out (to delete material). As you review a revised policy or guideline, you may accept one, many, or all of the changes provided. If a policy or guideline is marked as a replacement, enough changes have been made to justify a complete, clean replacement copy. As you review a replacement policy or guideline, you should also check the materials you have in your current policy or guideline to see if there is some specific wording you want to be included in the replacement policy. If so, a copy of any wording to be added and where it should be inserted should be forwarded with the replacement policy or guideline when it is returned to the Coshocton office for processing.

If the District authors language and adds it to a policy template or deletes content that is not marked as a choice in the policy template, then these actions will constitute District-specific edits.

Policies to be deleted from the policy manual require Board action to rescind the policy.

Your Neola Associate will contact you soon to schedule an appointment to review this update and ensure you are current on it and previous updates.

If you are not an administrative guidelines client, you did not receive those materials in this packet. Contact your Associate for more information about becoming an administrative guidelines client.

## **Processing Update Materials**

Revisions to your policies and administrative guidelines should be made in BoardDocs using the provided instructions.

## **Using Header Box Options in BoardDocs**

Each policy and administrative guideline in BoardDocs includes multiple header boxes that provide essential information beyond the document's title and code number. (NOTE: All the header boxes are visible only when editing is turned on; in view mode, only the header boxes with content are shown.)

**Adopted:** The “Adopted” header box indicates when the policy or guideline was first adopted, and that date never changes as long as the policy or guideline is active.

**Last Revised:** Retaining the history of each policy and guideline is essential for legal and administrative reasons; BoardDocs provides options for this retention. Immediately beneath the “Adopted” header box is the “Last Revised” header box, which indicates the last time the policy or guideline was changed. This box is updated by Neola Production each time a revision is submitted. Any revision dates between the initial adoption and the latest revision are usually located at the bottom of the document, just above the Neola copyright. (Again, these dates are updated by Neola Production with each submission and should correspond to Board meeting minutes, except for TC notations for technical corrections.)

**Last Reviewed:** A new “Last Reviewed” option now exists for indicating that you have reviewed the policy or guideline and have found it to be sufficient as presently written. Since no revision is being made in these situations, there is no record that the document was reviewed. A typical example would be a technical correction that isn’t needed in your document, or a revision to an option you don’t have or don’t want. In such cases, because the copyright has changed but the content has not, you would want to show that your document is current as of the new copyright date, even though it still shows the older copyright date from the previous version of the Neola template. Now you can indicate that you have reviewed the document, even if no revision was made, by entering the review date in the new “Last Reviewed” header box. This is also a handy feature for those Boards that use a policy review regimen in addition to revisions made through the Neola Update process.

### **District-Specific Materials**

If the District chooses, during any step of the Update process, to incorporate District-specific material into a new policy or guideline that has been proposed or to insert District-specific material into a current policy or guideline for which revisions have been proposed in an update issued by Neola, then the District agrees to hold Neola harmless for those District-specific edits and acknowledges that Neola’s warranty for legal challenges to that District-specific language in that policy or guideline will not be in effect. In addition, Neola retains ownership of the text from the original policy template that remains in a policy to which District-specific material has been added. District-specific materials include the following:

1. Materials from the District’s existing materials that the District requests be incorporated during the drafting process;
2. New materials that the District develops in its entirety and exclusive of Neola;
3. Revisions or deletions that substantively depart from Neola’s templates; and
4. Outdated material that a District did not keep current with Neola updates.

Further, Neola does not recommend the use or incorporation of District-specific materials. Neola will, at the request of the District, incorporate District-specific materials into the licensed materials, with the implicit understanding that the District bears all risks associated with the District’s decision to request that such District-specific materials be incorporated. Neola reserves the right to, but is not obligated to, advise the District to seek its own legal review of District-specific materials.

### **Notice Regarding Legal Accuracy**

Neola is vigilant in providing clients with policy language vetted for legal accuracy by outside legal counsel. Should questions arise as to the legal compliance or accuracy of Neola materials, it is our

expectation that Neola's counsel would have the opportunity to assist in the resolution of such a claim. Please notify the Neola corporate office if an issue arises in which such a review or assistance is necessary.

Policies in this update have been reviewed by Renning Lewis & Lacy, s.c. for consistency with Federal and State law.

This Update includes the following documents:

## **02 - Sample Annual Parental Notice**

In compliance with the 2025 Wisconsin Act 57, the included sample notice provides an annual summary of parents' and guardians' rights to access school employee disciplinary records under Wisconsin's public records laws.

### **Policy 1213/3213/4213 - Student Supervision and Welfare (Revised)**

These policies establish a standard of care to protect student safety by clearly defining behavioral boundaries for all staff. As required by 2025 Wisconsin Act 57, the updated language mandates that parents be notified of sexual misconduct reports by 5:00 p.m. on the same day (or noon the next day if the report is received on a school day after the end of regularly scheduled instruction or on a day that is not a school day, by noon of the next calendar day.). A new, comprehensive optional section on "Appropriate Staff and Student Relationships" further safeguards students by explicitly prohibiting "boundary invasions"—such as grooming, inappropriate digital contact, or unauthorized transport. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination, and may be reported to external agencies as required by law.

Finally, the policy now requires an annual notice to parents regarding their statutory right to access staff disciplinary records. The non-optional language changes are required for policy compliance with WI Act 57.

### **Policy 8462 - Child Abuse and Neglect (Revised)**

This policy establishes a comprehensive framework for the mandatory identification and immediate reporting of child abuse or neglect. It requires all staff to complete Department of Public Instruction (DPI) training within their first six months and every five years thereafter. A critical update, aligned with 2025 Wisconsin Act 57, integrates specific reporting requirements for sexual misconduct by staff members, carrying severe disciplinary consequences for a failure to report. By strictly prohibiting "investigative" delays by staff, the policy ensures that law enforcement and child welfare agencies can intervene immediately to protect students and preserve evidence. The changes are required for policy compliance with WI Act 57.

These documents may be downloaded from the WI Policy Local Update menu in your BoardDocs console. If you have questions about any of these Special Update materials, contact your Neola

Associate.

All production-related materials and questions should be directed to the Production Office - Coshocton at 632 Main Street, Coshocton, Ohio 43812 (phone: 800-407-5815, email: [production@neola.com](mailto:production@neola.com)). Billing and other questions should be directed to the Business Office - Stow at 3914 Clock Pointe Trail, Suite 103, Stow, Ohio 44224 (phone: 330-926-0514, fax: 330-926-0525, email: [accounts@neola.com](mailto:accounts@neola.com)).