



1/2/26

Dear Parents, Guardians, & WASD Staff,

A new state requirement, Act 44 of 2025, takes effect on January 6, 2026. This law requires all Pennsylvania school districts to notify parents, guardians, and staff of a specific school when a weapon related incident occurs on property or aboard district transportation.

If a weapon related incident occurs at a WASD school, an email notification will go out to families and staff of that school to ensure consistent communication. The notification will be purposefully specific and include: the date of the incident, level of threat as determined in cooperation with law enforcement, and any next steps that may be required. To protect the rights of all individuals involved and the integrity of the investigation, notifications cannot include specific details of the incident nor any personally identifying information.

While weapon related incidents remain uncommon in our schools, our response to these incidents is based on specific district safety procedures. These procedures may include, but are not limited to:

- A thorough investigation of the incident, including interviews of individuals involved
- Direct support for affected students and staff
- A complete threat assessment to determine safety concerns
- Adherence to district disciplinary procedures and board policy
- Comprehensive cooperation with local law enforcement

It is important to note that the vast majority of the situations we deal with pose no direct threat to the school community. For example, a student unknowingly possessing a pocketknife from a camping trip or a parent packing a butter knife in a student lunch. Even in these accidental cases, the law requires schools to send a notification to families and staff.

In an effort to avoid potential incidents, we urge all families to have detailed conversations with your children regarding what is appropriate to bring to school and the importance of routinely checking your belongings. We truly appreciate your partnership as we continue to prioritize the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff.

Best regards,

Dr. Harrison Bailey III
WASD Superintendent