



School District of Baraboo

Engage. Challenge. Inspire.
Every Student. Every Day. Every Way.
Dr. Rainey L. Briggs, Superintendent

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday December 6th, 2024

Contact: Hailey Wagner, Director of Communications
hwagner@barabooschools.net
(608) 355-3950 Ext. 1520

Dr. Rainey Briggs Response to School District of Baraboo Bullying and Harassment

The School District of Baraboo takes all reports of bullying and harassment extremely seriously, as we recognize these are complex issues that impact not only individual students but our entire school community. We want to clearly communicate how our district handles these sensitive situations.

Our comprehensive anti-bullying and harassment policies require that all incidents be thoroughly investigated while maintaining appropriate confidentiality. Every report is documented and addressed promptly through our established procedures, which involve building principals, school counselors, and when needed, our Director of Student Services.

We must also address a critical concern regarding social media behavior in our community. When parents, community members, or others engage in hostile discussions or share incidents on social media platforms, this can actually perpetuate and escalate bullying behaviors, causing additional harm to our students and staff. We ask everyone to consider how their online actions may impact our school community and the wellbeing of our young people.

While community members may have specific expectations about disciplinary outcomes, it's important to understand that each situation is evaluated individually within the framework of our policies, procedures, and student code of conduct. Our response must be proportional and appropriate to the specific circumstances, taking into account all factors and the rights of all students involved.

We strongly encourage utilizing our established reporting systems, particularly our School Safety resources and the Speak Up, Speak Out Wisconsin program. This confidential reporting system allows students, parents, and community members to report concerns about:

- Bullying, harassment, or intimidation both in and outside of school
- Cyberbullying on any platform (including Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, text messaging)
- Other safety concerns including fights, substances, or weapons
- Students who may be considering self-harm

Reports can be made anonymously through the Speak Up, Speak Out form, and all submissions are handled confidentially. Detailed information about School Safety resources and the Speak Up, Speak Out program can be found on our district website at <https://www.baraboo.k12.wi.us/page/school-safety>. This system ensures that concerns are addressed through appropriate channels while protecting the privacy and safety of all involved.

The district's approach emphasizes both accountability and support. Our commitment extends beyond just addressing individual incidents. We provide ongoing training to staff and implement preventative educational measures to build awareness about aggressive behavior and its impacts. We are dedicated to creating an environment where every student feels safe and supported.

For more detailed information about our policies or to report an incident, community members can contact their school principal or our Director of Student Services, Patrick Doty, by phone at (608)355-3950 or email pdoty@barabooschools.net, or utilize our School Safety resources page on the district website.

Together, we can create a safer, more supportive environment for all our students by using appropriate channels for reporting concerns and being mindful of how our actions, both in person and online, impact our school community.

###

The School District of Baraboo is located 40 miles northwest of Madison, in Baraboo Wisconsin and is comprised of five elementary schools, one middle school and one high school.