



# RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

660 West Daley Street      ≈      Spring Green, Wisconsin 53588      ≈      Phone: 608-588-2551

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## SCHOOL COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The River Valley Board of Education believes that the public schools belong in every sense to the people, reflect the community they serve, and can never be any stronger than the public is willing and able to make them.

The Board of Education believes that all reasonable means should be employed to keep the public informed on matters of importance regarding District policies, finances, programs, personnel, and operations.

Information concerning the River Valley School District and its operation is public information. The District Administrator shall inform the citizens of the community and general public about the achievements and the needs of the schools. The news media represents the public interest in reporting information concerning the schools. It is, therefore, in the interest of both the education community and the citizen-taxpayers of the District that there be open communications with news media.

However, in the interest of protecting the rights of individual students, employees are not to discuss individual students or families with the media unless the parent/guardian or a student of the age of majority signs a release. In order to minimize interruptions in the school day, all requests by representatives of the media to speak to students or staff on school property or during the school day are to be referred to the building principal for approval. The media shall be allowed to interview a student if:

- a. The student has voluntarily chosen or been allowed by his/her parent(s)/guardian to participate in a school or District-related activity in which the media has been invited to attend; or
- b. The student has chosen to be an officially designated school leader for a school activity.

Media requests regarding district-wide issues or disturbances, disruptions, or emergencies should be directed to the district administrator. Natural disasters, fires, strikes, sit-ins, bomb threats, etc. are examples of the issues that should be directed to the district administrator.

The District Administrator may authorize other personnel to speak for the District.

LEGAL REF.:      Chapter 19   Wisconsin Statutes  
                          Sections      19.35   Wisconsin Statutes  
                                               19.80  
                                               19.81  
                                               19.85

CROSS REF.: Policy #171.1 - Public Notification of Board Meetings  
 Policy #186 - Advisory Committees to the Board  
 Policy #187 - Public Participation at Board Meetings

Policy #822 - Access to Public Records

APPROVED: June 8, 1989  
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