



Evaluating School Responses to Notifications of Student Criminal Offenses

Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee
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Today's presentation



Few principals shared as extensively as required

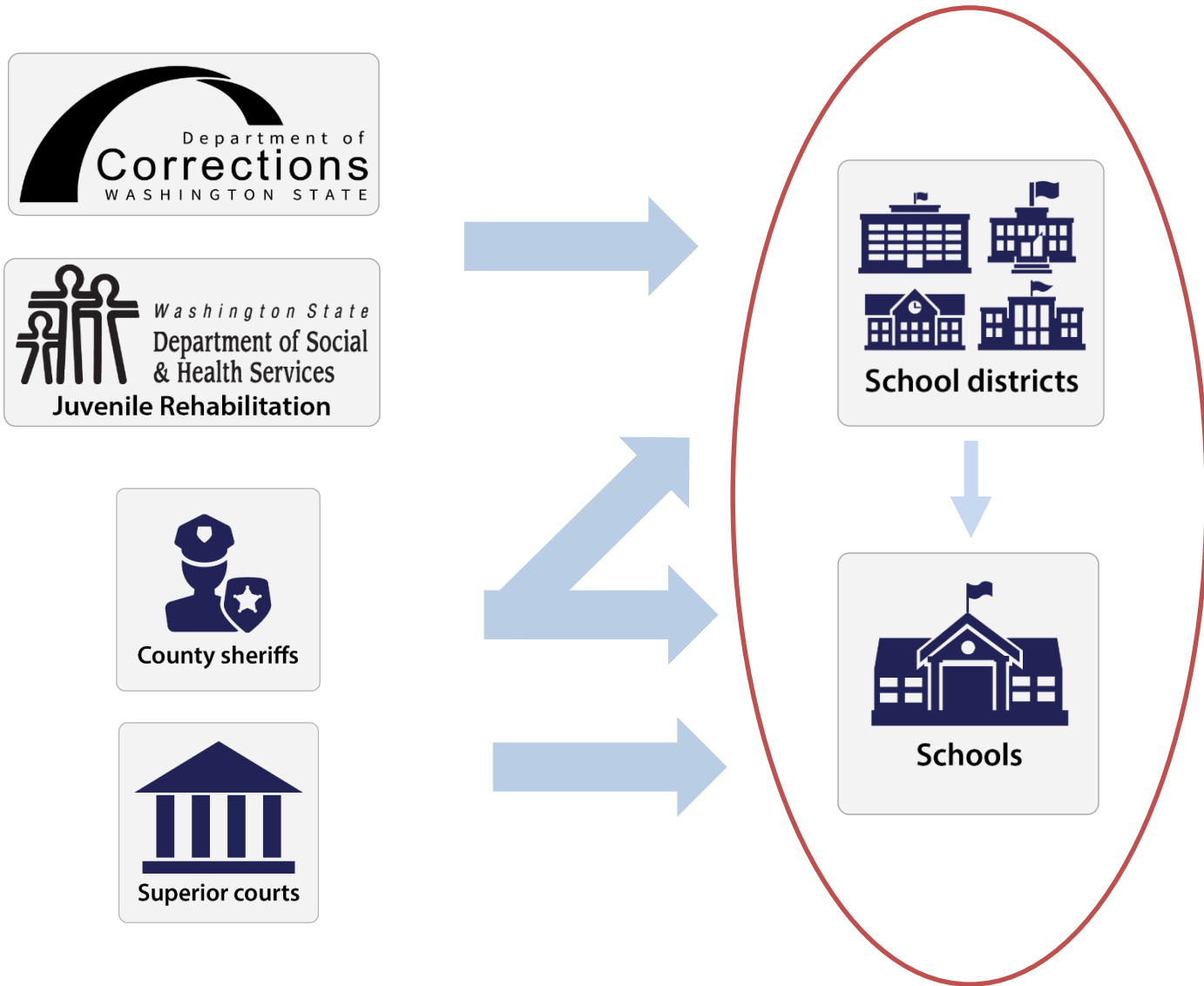


A patchwork of legal requirements

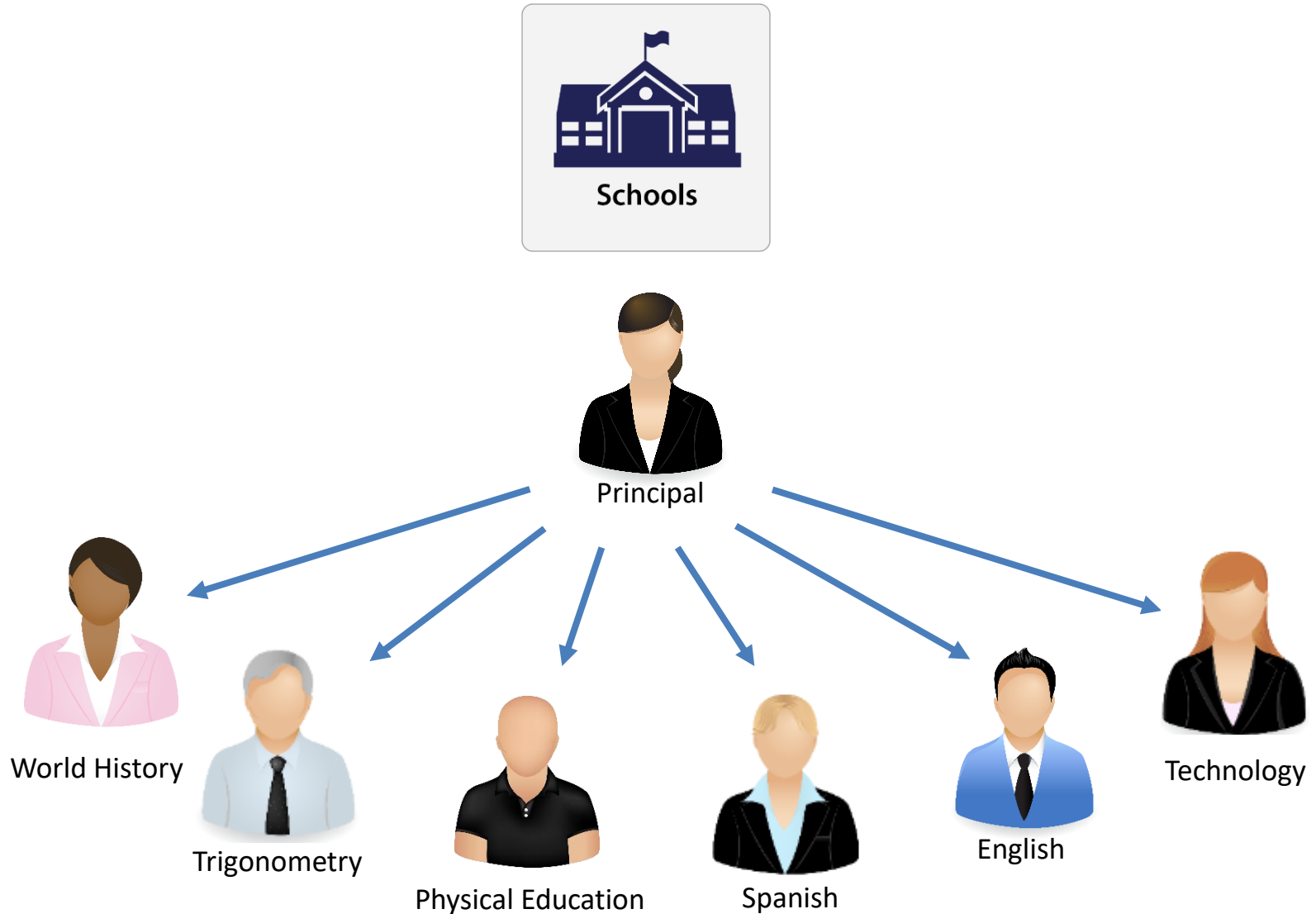


No comprehensive guidance or training

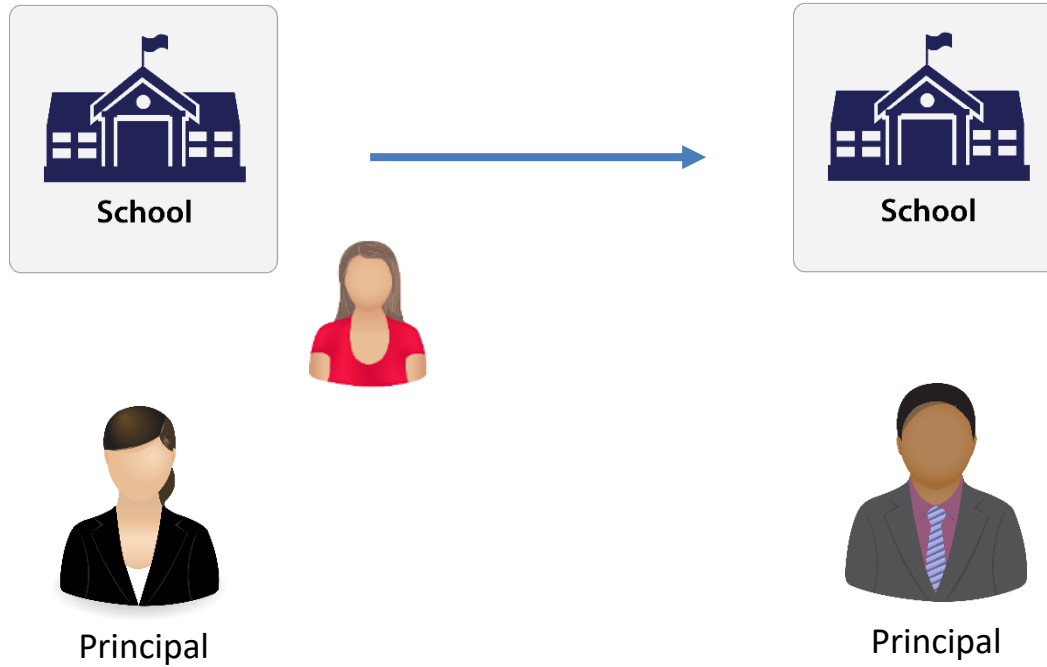
Two audits evaluated notification processes



Principals must notify each of the student's teachers



Principals must also notify the student's next school

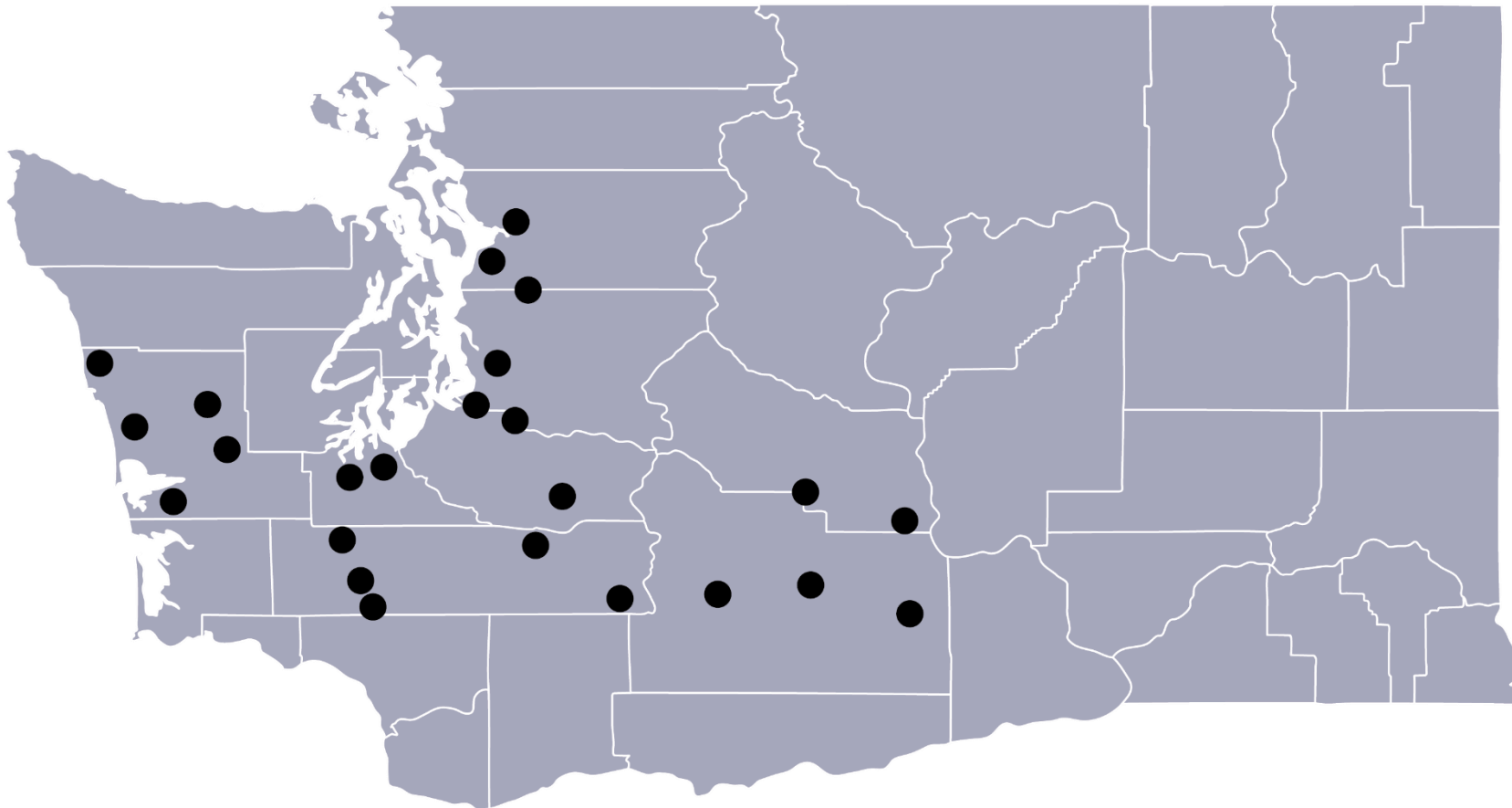


Not sharing student criminal history information may raise risk

When information is not shared:

- Students and teachers can be harmed
- School districts can face costly legal proceedings
- Teachers cannot provide additional support
- Principals cannot provide counseling or additional staff support when students arrive

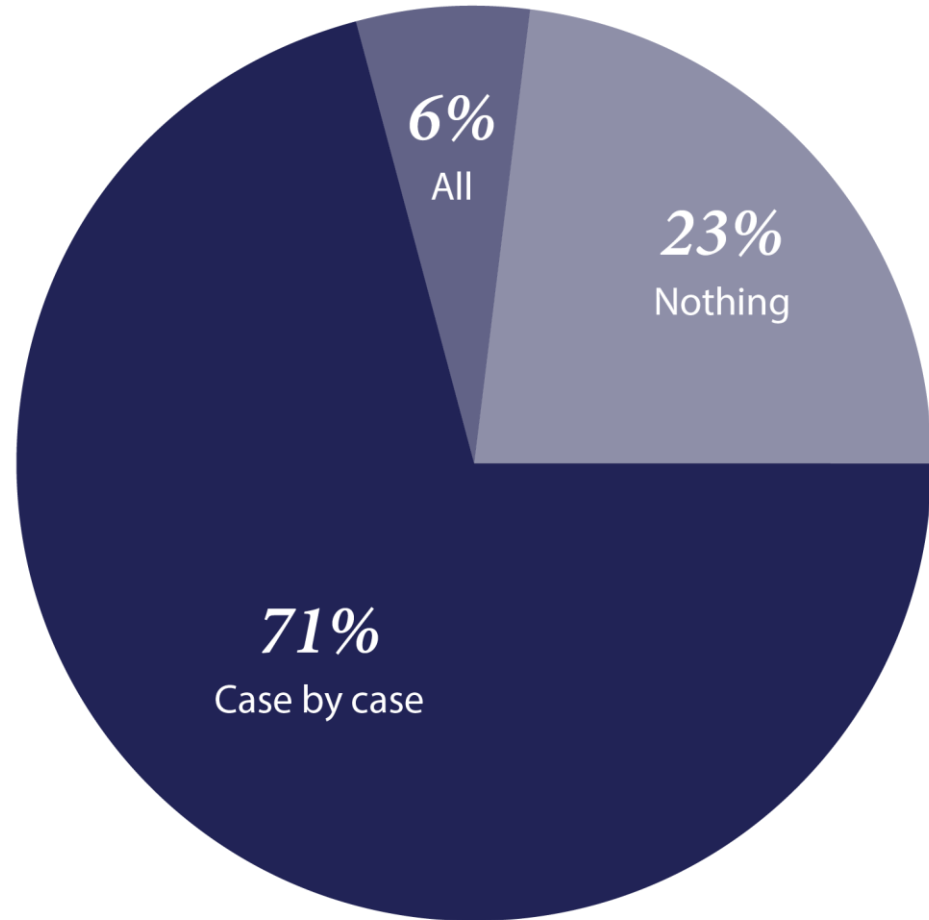
We visited 24 school districts



Few principals shared all offenses with teachers



Most shared with teachers
on a case-by-case basis

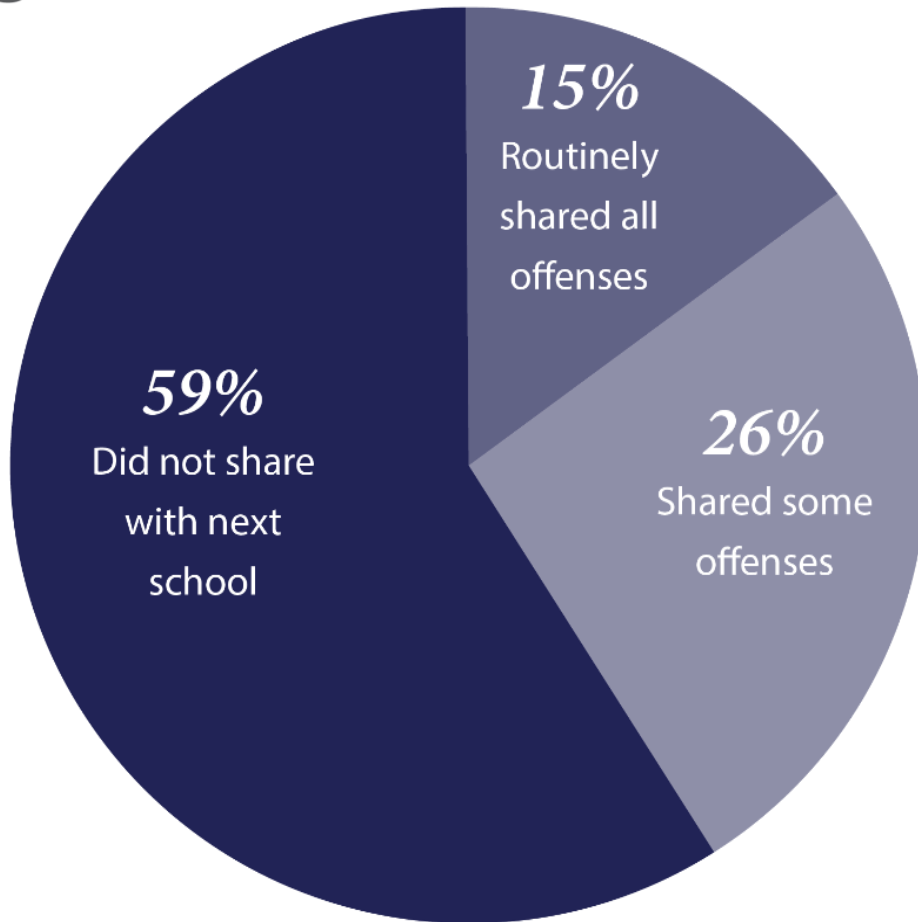


Principals focused on situations involving serious crimes



- Balanced student privacy with concerns about classroom safety
- Shared the most serious crimes
 - 76 percent would inform teachers of safety concerns
 - 40 percent would reach out to the principal at the next school

Many principals did not share with the next school

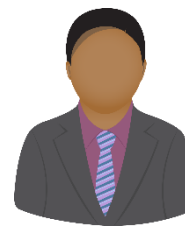


Over half did not share anything with subsequent schools

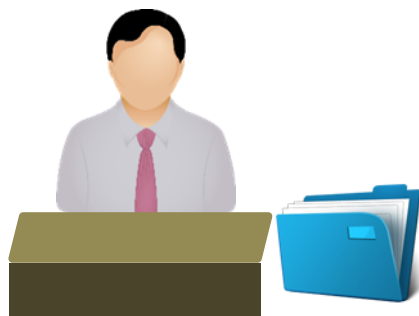
Principals are rarely part of transferring student records



Principal



Principal



Office Staff



Office Staff

Notifications result from a patchwork of legal requirements

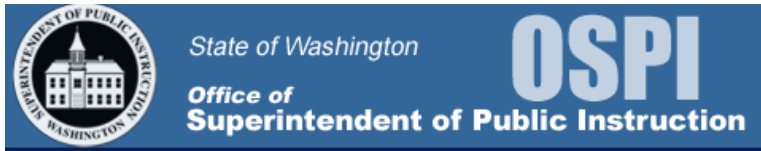


- Passed over a 20-year period, in different contexts and different authorizing environments
- Some requirements conflict with each other

RCW 13.04.155 Principals must share all offenses with every teacher of the student

RCW 9A.44.138 Principals have discretion in sharing information with teachers for Level 1 sex offenders

There was no comprehensive guidance



School Safety Center



Did not address:

- Full range of offenses
- Sharing with subsequent schools

Did not address:

- Sharing with subsequent schools

There was no comprehensive guidance



Superior Court for the *State of Washington*
for the *County of King*
Juvenile Probation Department

NOTIFICATION TO SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING
ADJUDICATION OR SIGNING OF DIVERSION AGREEMENT IN KING COUNTY

_____ (DOB: _____) who attended your school or is enrolled in your
school district has either been adjudicated or signed a diversion agreement for the
offense(s) of:

PLEASE NOTE: **This information is CONFIDENTIAL** and is provided to you pursuant
to Chapter 13.04 RCW. **It may not be further disseminated** except as provided in Chapter
13.04 RCW, RCW 28.A.225.330, other statutes or case law, and the Family and
Educational Privacy Rights Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232(g) et seq.

Recommendations

To the Legislature and the legislative work group

- Make statutory changes to address conflicting requirements
- Consider limiting some requirements
- Work with notifying agencies to establish clear instructions on each notification

To OSPI and WSSDA

- Develop and disseminate comprehensive and consistent guidance

To audited school districts

- Adopt policies and procedures for sharing student criminal history information
- Develop district-wide systems to ensure principals share information as required

The legislative work group has already assembled

The Office of the Governor
Administrative Office of the Courts
Association of Washington School Principals
Association of Washington Superior Court Administrators
Columbia Legal Services
Department of Corrections
Department of Social & Health Services – Juvenile Rehabilitation
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators
Washington Association of School Administrators
Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs
Washington Federation of Independent Schools
Washington State Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
Washington State Legislature staff
Washington State School Directors' Association

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