

WEAC Educator Protection Principles

All students and staff deserve safe and welcoming schools, and that's what Wisconsin overwhelmingly offers. When violence is targeted at teachers and paraprofessionals, they must have the support they need. The Wisconsin Education Association Council Educator Protection Principles call for enforcement of current law, along with protections that will result in improved relationships with families and long-term solutions ensuring educators who are affected by violence have the time and resources they need to recover and continue teaching.

- Fully enforce Wisconsin Statute 118.164 providing teachers the right to remove students from class;
- Include verbal abuse as a violent act;
- Provide ongoing professional development related to defusing potentially violent situations and regular training and refreshers in seclusion and restraint strategies;
- Incorporate procedures for addressing school violence against teachers and paraprofessionals in school crisis plans;
- Provide volatile students with wrap-around services in partnership with county and city/village resources;
- Similar to truancy, ticket students and/or legal guardians for violent acts against teachers or school employees;
- Provide greater access to first responders (e.g. security guards);
- Ensure every school has a violence prevention policy;
- When a violent incident occurs, allow for employee benefits above and beyond leave benefits afforded by accumulated time and worker's compensation laws;
- Allow a teacher to be released from contract without penalty based on a violent act or by teacher's self-reporting of ongoing student discipline issues;
- Provide a minimum of 2 paid days of absence above accumulated leave for any physical or verbal assault;
- Broaden non-college bound curricular opportunities for students to pursue the trades: career and technical education;
- Create shared leadership structures between teachers and administrators related to student discipline;
- Provide teachers with access to resources which aim to decrease incidents of violence (restorative practices facilitators, nurses, counselors, social workers).