

WPI Parental Notification Guidelines

WPI works closely with students and parents/guardians to assist with their academic and social success, which, in certain situations, may involve conversations with parents/guardians. WPI considers our students responsible adults, capable of managing their own lives and seeking guidance when necessary, even if financially dependent upon their parents/guardians.

The Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act ([FERPA](#)) protects the confidentiality of a student's education records and specifies the limited situations in which this information may be provided without a student's prior consent. While it is not possible to list all situations under which parents/guardians of students may be contacted, WPI may generally initiate this contact if (in the judgment of WPI) a serious injury or a crime has been committed that may affect the student's continued enrollment. In addition, WPI may determine that parents/guardians should be notified concerning the existence of serious concerns or threats to a student's health, either physical or emotional.

The Dean of Students staff will serve as the conduit with the student and parent/guardian. When possible, this communication will be done jointly with the student, with the goal of supporting the student's well-being, empowering the student to seek assistance and identifying next steps as appropriate. If the student's behavior is disruptive to the WPI community, the Dean of Students staff will work with the student and parents/legal guardians to develop a plan that supports the student's ongoing well-being and academic success. In certain instances, WPI, through consultation with the student and other appropriate campus offices, may conclude that it is not in the student's best interest for parental notification to take place.