

Respondent Names
Complainant Name
Complaint Description
<p>Joe Riley reported via the portal 15 days ago (Thu, 1 Aug 2024 at 1:47 PM)</p> <p>On March 12, 2024, Deputy Superintendent Wade Barringer sent an email to KSDLeadershipTeam@kent.k12.wa.us with the subject "Important Levy Information". This email instructed principals and building admins to participate in a gratuitous information campaign related to the April 2024 levy.</p> <p>Attached to the email was a word document containing all of the messages to use and stressed that "You are expected to make sure that these communications go out at the time indicated to all staff and families in your building...". The messages included 17 texts, 9 emails, and 6 reader board messages over a 6 week time period. The final 5 days, which included a weekend, required daily text messages to families. Importantly, the first message to send requested families opt-in to text messages, but the email made no references to the levy. Instead, they claimed it would be used for emergencies and stressed a risk of not receiving vital communications if families failed to opt-in. This messaging is incredibly misleading for the intended purpose, and likely increased the district's outreach more than it would have if they were upfront about the levy communications.</p> <p>In addition, the email contained a document titled "AdminBldgPrincipalResponsibilities2024.docx", which detailed all of the actions principals were expected to take regarding levy-related communication. This document included a column with the heading "Completed" and instructed principals to email the completed form with dates back to the district, which added further pressure for principals to participate in the campaign. This document also stated that "This is a firm expectation that you request to be on the agenda of any community group that you belong to or attend meetings during Sep/Oct to present/play the levy ppt and distribute information", and at one point specifically requests that principals "identify meetings you will share levy video/materials". It also instructs principals to "ask staff to spread word to remember to vote".</p>
What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
<p>Community members were flooded with levy-related communications at a much higher frequency than is typical from the district. Furthermore, the initial communication was a request for families to opt-in to text messaging and mentioned "emergency announcements" and warned "If your information is not up to date, you may not receive these vital communications" in order to convince families to opt in.</p>
List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found
<p>* Email-Important_Levy_Information.pdf - Email sent to principals from Wade Barringer.</p>

* 2024 Principal Email Text Readerboard Messages Updated.docx - Document containing the messages to send and when to send them.

* AdminBldgPrincipalResponsibilities2024.docx - Document containing checklist of actions to be taken by principals, with expectation that they report back dates when actions were completed.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

Certification (Complainant)

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.