

STUDENTS

Student Discipline

The Board acknowledges that conduct and behavior is closely associated with learning. An effective instructional program requires a wholesome and orderly school environment. The Board requires that each student adhere to the rules of conduct and submit to corrective action taken as a result of conduct violations.

Students are expected to:

- A. Respect the rights, person and property of others;
- B. Preserve the degree of order necessary for a positive climate of learning;
- C. Comply with district and regulations; and
- D. Acknowledge the disciplinary authority of staff and reasonable discipline imposed by school employees and respond accordingly.

The Board also recognizes that schools must take reasonable steps so that students who fail to adhere to the district's rules and regulations and who receive discipline for such misconduct remain engaged or are effectively reengaged in their educational program.

“Discipline” means any action taken by the school district in response to behavioral violations. Discipline is not necessarily punitive, but can take positive and supportive forms. Data show that a supportive response to behavioral violation is more effective and increases equitable educational opportunities. The purposes of this policy and accompanying procedure include:

- Engaging with families and the community and striving to understand and be responsive to cultural context
- Supporting students in meeting behavioral expectations, including providing for early involvement of parents/guardians
- Administering discipline in ways that respond to the needs and strengths of students and keep students in the classroom to the maximum extent possible
- Providing educational services that students need during suspension and expulsion
- Facilitating collaboration between school personnel, students, and parents/guardians, and thereby supporting successful reentry into the classroom following a suspension or expulsion
- Ensuring fairness, equity, and due process in the administration of discipline
- Providing every student with the opportunity to achieve personal and academic success
- Providing a safe environment for all students and for district employees

The Superintendent will establish and make available rules of student conduct, designed to provide students with a safe, healthy, and educationally sound environment. Students are expected to be aware of the district's rules of student conduct, including behavior standards that respect the rights, person, and property of others. Students and staff are expected to work together to develop a positive climate for learning.

Minimizing Exclusion, Engaging with Families, and Supporting Students

Unless a student's presence poses an immediate and continuing danger to others or an immediate and continuing threat to the educational process, staff members must first attempt one or more forms of other forms of discipline to support students in meeting behavioral expectations before imposing classroom exclusion, short-term suspension, or in-school suspension. Before imposing a long-term suspension or expulsion, the district must first consider other forms of discipline.

These other forms of discipline may involve the use of best practices and strategies included in the state menu for behavior developed under RCW 28A.165.035. The accompanying procedure will identify a list of other forms of discipline for staff use. However, staff members are not restricted to that list and may use any other form of discipline compliant with WAC 392-400-025(9).

School personnel must make every reasonable attempt to involve parents/guardians and students to resolve behavioral violations. The district must ensure that associated notices, hearings, conferences, meetings, plans, proceedings, agreements, petitions, and decisions are in a language the student and parents/guardians understand; this may require language assistance. Language assistance includes oral and written communication and further includes assistance to understand written communication, even if parents/guardians cannot read any language. The district's use of suspension and expulsion will have a real and substantial relationship to the lawful maintenance and operation of the school district, including but not limited to, the preservation of the health and safety of students and employees and the preservation of an educational process that is conducive to learning.

As described in the procedures, the district will offer educational services to students during suspension or expulsion. When the district administers a long-term suspension or expulsion, the district will hold a reengagement meeting and collaborate with parents/guardians and students to develop a reengagement plan that is tailored to the student's individual circumstances, in order to return the student to school successfully. Additionally, any student who has been suspended or expelled may apply for readmission at any time.

Staff Authority

District staff members are responsible for supervising students during the school day, during school activities, whether on or off campus, and on the school bus. Staff members will seek early involvement of parents/guardians in efforts to support students in meeting behavioral expectations. The Superintendent has general authority to administer discipline, including all exclusionary discipline. The Superintendent will identify other staff members to whom the Superintendent has designated disciplinary authority. After attempting at least one other form of discipline, teachers have statutory authority to impose classroom exclusion for behaviors that disrupt the educational process. Because perceptions of subjective behaviors vary and include implicit or unconscious bias, the accompanying procedures will seek to identify the types of behaviors for which the identified district staff may administer discipline.

Ensuring Fairness, Providing Notice, and an Opportunity for a Hearing

When administering discipline, the district will observe all of the student's constitutional rights. The district will notify parents/guardians as soon as reasonably possible about classroom exclusion and before administering any suspension or expulsion. The district will provide opportunities for parent/guardian participation during an initial hearing with the student. The district will provide parents/guardians with written notice, consistent with WAC 392-400-455, of a suspension or expulsion no later than one school business day following the initial hearing. As stated above, language assistance includes oral and written communication and further includes assistance to understand written communication, even if parents/guardians cannot read any language. The district has established procedures for review and appeal of suspensions, expulsions, and emergency expulsions, consistent with WAC 392-400-430 through 392-400-530.

The district has also established procedures to address grievances of parents/guardians or students related to other forms of discipline, classroom exclusion, and exclusion from transportation or extra-curricular activity. The grievance procedures include an opportunity for the student to share his or her perspective and explanation regarding the behavioral violation.

Development and Review

Accurate and complete reporting of all disciplinary actions, including the behavioral violations that led to them, is essential for effective review of this policy; therefore, the district will ensure such reporting. The district will periodically collect and review data on disciplinary actions taken against students in each school. The data will be disaggregated into subgroups as required by RCW 28A.300.042, including students who qualify for special education or Section 504. The data review will include classroom exclusion, in-school and short-term suspensions, and long-term suspensions and expulsions. The district will invite school personnel, students, parents/guardians, families, and the community to participate in the data review. The purpose of the data review is to determine if disproportionality exists; if disproportionality is found the district will take action to ensure that it is not the result of discrimination and may update this policy and procedure to improve fairness and equity regarding discipline.

Distribution of Policies and Procedures

The school district will make its discipline policies and procedures available to families and the community. The district will annually provide its discipline policies and procedures to all district personnel, students, and parents/guardians, which may require language assistance for students and parents/guardians with limited-English proficiency under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The school district will ensure district employees and contractors are knowledgeable of the discipline policies and procedures.

Cross References:	Policy 2121	Substance Abuse Program
	Policy 2161	Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students
	Policy 2162	Education of Students with Disabilities Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
	Policy 3122	Excused and Unexcused Absences
	Policy 3200	Student Rights and Responsibilities

Policy 3210	Non-Discrimination
Policy 3244	Prohibition of Corporal Punishment
Policy 3520	Student Fees, Fines, or Charges
Policy 4210	Regulation of Dangerous Weapons on School Premises
Policy 4218	Language Access
Policy 6605	Student Safety Walking to School and Riding Buses

Legal References:

RCW 4.24.190	Action against parent for willful injury to property by minor – Monetary limitation – Common law liability preserved
RCW 9A.16.020	Use of force – when lawful
RCW 9A.16.100	Use of force on children – Policy – Actions presumed unreasonable
RCW 9.41.280	Possessing dangerous weapons on school facilities – Penalty – Exceptions
RCW 9.91.160	Personal protection spray devices
RCW 28A.150.240	Certificated teaching and administrative staff as accountable for classroom teaching – Scope – Responsibilities – Penalty
RCW 28A.210.310	Prohibition of use of tobacco products on school property
Chapter 28A.225, RCW	Compulsory school attendance and admission
Chapter 28A.320, RCW	Provisions applicable to all districts
RCW 28A.400.100	Principals and vice principals – Employment of – Qualifications – Duties
RCW 28A.400.110	Principal to assure appropriate student discipline – Building discipline standards – Classes to improve classroom management skills
Chapter 28A.600, RCW	Students
RCW 28A.635.060	Defacing or injuring school property – Liability of pupil, parent or guardian – Withholding grades, diploma, or transcripts – Suspension and restitution – Voluntary work program as alternative – Rights protected
RCW 28A.635.090	Interference by force or violence – Penalty
RCW 28A.635.100	Intimidating any administrator, teacher, classified employee, or student by

	threat of force or violence unlawful – Penalty
WAC 392-190-048	Access to course offerings – Student discipline
Chapter 392-400 WAC 34 CFR Part 100.3	Student Discipline Regulations implementing Civil Rights Act of 1964
20 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.	Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities
42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.	Civil Rights Act of 1964

Management Resources: *Policy Alert*, April 2019
Policy News, August 2018
Policy News, July 2016
Policy News, Dec 2014
Policy News, Aug 2014
Policy News, June 2010

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