

Student Discipline

The Board of Wenatchee School District focuses on the educational achievement of each and every student. The District holds high expectations for all students and gives all students the opportunity to achieve personal and academic success “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. The Board intends that this policy and accompanying procedure be implemented in a manner that supports a positive school environment, maximizes instructional time, and increases equitable educational opportunities. The purposes of this policy and accompanying procedure include:

- Engaging with families and the community while striving to understand and be responsive to cultural context;
- Supporting students in meeting behavioral expectations, including providing for early involvement of parents;
- 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, 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; and
- Providing a safe environment for all students and for district employees.

The District’s student discipline policy and procedure is designed to provide students with a safe, healthy, and educationally sound environment. Students are expected to be aware of and comply with this policy and procedure, including behavioral expectations that respect the rights, person, and property of others.

District Commitment

The Board recognizes the negative and disproportionate impact of exclusionary discipline practices and is committed to:

- Identifying and addressing discipline policies and practices that perpetuate educational opportunity gaps; and
- Proactively implementing discipline practices that support students in meeting behavioral expectations without losing access to instruction.

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 types 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.

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 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

The District will observe students' fundamental rights and will administer discipline in a manner that does not:

- Unlawfully discriminate against a student on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal;
- Deprive a student of the student's constitutional right to freedom of speech and press, the constitutional right to peaceably assemble and to petition the government and its representatives for a redress of grievances, the constitutional right to the free exercise of religion and to have the student's school free from sectarian control or influence, subject to reasonable limitations upon the time, place, and manner of exercising the right;
- Deprive a student of the student's constitutional right to be secure in the student's person, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures;
- Unlawfully interfere in a student's pursuit of an education while in the custody of the school district; or
- Deprive a student of the student's right to an equal educational opportunity, in whole or in part, by a school district without due process of law.

The district will notify parents as soon as reasonably possible about classroom exclusion and before administering any suspension or expulsion. The district will provide opportunities for parent participation during an initial hearing with the student. The district will provide parents 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. The district has established procedures for review and appeal of suspensions, expulsions, and emergency removals, consistent with WAC 392-400-430 through 392-400-530.

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, 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 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, which may require language assistance for students and parents with limited-English proficiency under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The district will ensure district employees and contractors are knowledgeable of the discipline policies and procedures.

Legal References

42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq. Civil Rights Act of 1964
34 CFR Part 100.3 Regulations implementing Civil Rights Act of 1964
Chapter 392-400, WAC Pupils
WAC 392-190-048 Access to course offerings – Student discipline
Chapter 28A.600 RCW, Students
RCW 28A.400.110 Principal to assure appropriate student discipline — Building discipline standards — Classes to improve classroom management skills
RCW 28A.400.100 Principals and vice principals — Employment of — Qualifications — Duties
Chapter 28A.320, RCW Provisions applicable to all districts
Chapter 28A.225, RCW Compulsory school attendance and admission
RCW 28A.150.240 Certificated teaching and administrative staff as accountable for classroom teaching — Scope — Responsibilities — Penalty
RCW 9.41.280 Possessing dangerous weapons on school facilities — Penalty — Exceptions

RCW 9A.16.100 Use of force on children — Policy
— Actions presumed unreasonable

Cross References

2121 - Substance Abuse Program
2161 - Special Education and Related Services for
Eligible Students
2162 - Education of Students With Disabilities
Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
of 1973
3122 - Excused and Unexcused Absences
3200 - Rights and Responsibilities
3210 - Nondiscrimination
3244 - Prohibition of Corporal
Punishment
3520 - Student Fees, Fines, or Charges
4210 - Regulation of Dangerous Weapons on
School Premises
4218 - Language Access Plan

Management Resources

2019 - April Policy
Alert 2010 - June Issue
2014 - August Issue
2014 - December Issue
2016 - July Policy Issue
2018 - August 2018 - August Policy Issue

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