

Seattle Public Schools

The Basic Rules of Seattle Public Schools 2016 - 2017



SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Positive Beliefs, Positive Relationships, Positive Learning, and Positive Partnerships in Seattle Public Schools

Meaningful learning occurs in environments that are safe, positive, consistent, and predictable. When the principles of cultural intelligence, safety, respect, honesty, accountability, and equity are exhibited throughout a system, trusting relationships result and excellence for each and every student can be achieved.

Seattle Public Schools is committed to furthering cultural intelligence that respects and values the diversity across the District in schools and in classrooms, and serves to guide decisions in promoting fair and equitable treatment for all.

A positive school climate is important in promoting a sense of belonging and supporting excellence for each and every student. Positive school climates include:

- A vision based on shared beliefs, values, rituals, and stories that grow as part of the culture.
- Collaborative relationships and respectful interactions between students, families, and staff.
- Fair and equitable treatment that respects and values all cultures.
- A physical environment that is welcoming, safe, and accessible to all.
- Regular assessment and review of school climate survey by students, families, staff, and stakeholders.

In addition to a positive school climate, we understand that students at times may be experiencing emotional and/or physical stressors. During these times, students are encouraged to share with a trusted adult at school and staff are committed to supporting each student so that s/he is fully able to participate in the school day.

Sometimes additional counseling, support, and resources can be helpful. A number of community agencies offer assistance and information on health and human services available to King County residents. You can call 800-621-4636, 206-461-3610, or 211 for additional information.

Our Student Rights and Responsibilities sets forth the rules and regulations of Seattle Public Schools regarding student conduct. It is created in compliance with the requirements of State law and aligned with the Seattle Public Schools Strategic Plan. It references sections of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) that govern use of corrective action (i.e., discipline, suspension, and expulsion) for any student by a school district.

The foundation of Seattle Public Schools' discipline policy is one of prevention, by establishing a positive school climate that includes shared behavioral expectations and a common language for talking about expected behavior that is inclusive of students, families, teachers, administrators, volunteers, and other staff. Discipline procedures and intervention strategies aim to reduce or eliminate loss of instructional time and out of school consequences for behavior. This document applies to all students and is designed to educate all members of the educational community as to the rules, regulations, and due process procedures. We encourage families to review the Student Rights and Responsibilities with their student. It describes our expectations at school as well as what students can expect from adults at school.

School Responsibilities

School staff has a responsibility to:

- Contribute to a safe and positive school climate;
- Know, care for, and establish positive relationships with students;
- Hold all students to high-expectations and provide quality and effective instruction;
- Model courteous and respectful treatment;
- Provide opportunities for student voice to be heard;
- Encourage family participation in the resolution of ongoing problems;
- Encourage the resolution of problems within the school setting; and
- Seek consequences that are fair and natural for the situation.

Mission

Seattle Public Schools is committed to ensuring equitable access, closing the opportunity gaps, and excellence in education for every student.

Vision

Every Seattle Public Schools student receives a high-quality, 21st century education and graduates prepared for college, career, and life.

Equity and Compliance Policy:

Seattle Public Schools Seattle Public Schools ("SPS") provides Equal Educational Opportunities and Equal Employment Opportunities and does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex; race; creed; color; religion; ancestry; national origin; age; economic status; sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity; pregnancy; marital status; physical appearance; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; honorably discharged veteran or military status; or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal. SPS provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. For students and members of the public, the following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination against and can be reached at:

Seattle Public Schools
MS 32-149
PO Box 34165
Seattle, WA 98124-1166

Or by phone or email as specified in the information below:

For sex discrimination concerns, including sexual harassment, contact:

Title IX Grievance Coordinator, (206) 252-0367 or title.ix@seattleschools.org

For disability discrimination concerns contact:

ADA/Section 504 Grievance Coordinator,
(206) 252-0178, or accessibility@seattleschools.org

For all other types of discrimination, contact:

Student Civil Rights Coordinator, (206) 252-0306, or oscr@seattleschools.org

For employee questions about or requests for disability related accommodations and/or complaints of alleged discrimination, including sexual harassment, contact: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources,
(206) 252-0024, or hreeoc@seattleschools.org

SEATTLE SCHOOL BOARD

Stephan Blanford Betty Patu
Rick Burke Sue Peters
Jill Geary Scott Pinkham
Leslie Harris

SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Larry Nyland



Student Responsibilities

As a member of the school community, students should take personal responsibility to:

- Share with a trusted adult at the school when they are experiencing emotional and/or physical stressors for the purpose of obtaining resources or support;
- Advocate for their educational, cultural, social, and emotional needs;
- Engage in mutually respectful dialogue with staff and other students;
- Accept reasonable consequences when failing to meet behavioral expectations and use the opportunity to learn from their mistakes;
- Attend school regularly and prepared for all classes;
- Contribute to a safe and positive school climate;
- Respect and be mindful of the rights of other people and groups;
- Understand and follow “The Basic Rules of Seattle Public Schools” and individual school rules;
- Dress appropriately for school in ways that will not cause safety or health problems;
- Identify themselves to and follow the instructions of school staff; and
- Respect the property of others and the school.

Student Rights

As a member of the school community, students have the right to:

- An orderly and safe classroom and school;
- A quality education with high expectations and appropriate support;
- Courteous and respectful treatment;
- Be listened to and have their voice heard;
- Have equitable access to classes, services, resources, and extra-curricular activities;
- Be known and cared for at school; and
- Receive reasonable consequences and given opportunity to learn from mistakes.

Additionally, as citizens, students have constitutional rights and schools cannot unduly infringe on those rights. Schools may, however, set reasonable limits on those rights in order to meet their obligation to educate.

- Freedom of speech
- Assembly
- Petition
- Press
- No unreasonable search and seizure
- Equal educational opportunity
- Religion

Notice to Students and Parents Required by Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989

The Seattle Public Schools prohibits the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students on school premises or as part of school activities. Compliance with this rule is mandatory; students who disregard the prohibition will be long-term suspended or expelled. The possession and use of illegal drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol are wrong and harmful to health and education. The District offers, or can assist in arranging access to, drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs. For further information, contact your school's principal or counselor.

Code of Prohibited Conduct

District Offenses:

Students are not allowed to engage in other behaviors which disrupt or interfere with the educational process. Students may be disciplined for participation in any of the following behaviors in school, on school grounds, on District-sponsored transportation, or at any school-sponsored event. Students may also be disciplined for such behavior in any other setting having a real and substantial relationship to the operation of the District.

Standard discipline for District Offenses include modification to the student's environment, family conference, skills training, development of a Positive Behavioral Intervention Plan (PBIP), referral to counseling or other outside resources, mediation, and on rare occasion, a short-term suspension.

- Disruptive Conduct
- Rule-breaking
- Disobedience
- Gambling
- Misrepresentation
- Plagiarism
- Using or Possessing Tobacco Products
- Misuse of Computers
- Graffiti
- Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
- Sexual Harassment
- Inappropriate Sexual Conduct
- Inappropriate Touching
- Inappropriate Language
- Toy Guns and Toy Weapons
- False Reporting

Exceptional Misconduct:

Students may be disciplined and may also be referred to the police to face criminal charges, if they commit any of the exceptional misconduct on the list below while in school, on school grounds, on District-sponsored transportation, or at any school-sponsored event. Students may also be disciplined and may also be referred to the police if they engage in this exceptional misconduct in any other setting having a real and substantial relationship to the operation of the District. Disciplinary action can include such things as losing the privilege of attending District-sponsored activities, losing the privilege of using District-sponsored transportation, suspension, or expulsion.

The School Board has determined that these behaviors amount to “exceptional misconduct” and may warrant a suspension for the first offense, however administrators and hearing officers may grant exceptions in cases involving extenuating or exceptional circumstances, or after considering the background of the individual student.

- Selling Illegal Drugs, Controlled Substances, Prescription or Over-the-counter Drugs
- Selling Alcoholic Beverages
- Distributing Illegal Drugs, Controlled Substances Prescription or Over-the-counter Drugs
- Distributing Alcoholic Beverages
- Possessing Illegal Drugs, Controlled Substances Prescription or Over-the-counter Drugs• Possessing or Using Alcoholic Beverages
- Assault
- Physical Aggression – (Generally for elementary students)
- Sexual Assault
- Selling Marijuana
- Distributing Marijuana
- Possessing or using Marijuana
- Extortion, Blackmail, Coercion
- Fighting
- Threats of Violence
- Hazing
- Firearm
- Dangerous Weapons
- Small Folding Knives
- Fireworks, Explosives, Chemicals, and Incendiary Devices
- Toys Used As Weapons
- Robbery
- Theft
- Burglary
- Possession of Stolen Property
- Malicious Property Damage
- Intimidation of School Authorities
- Interference with School Authorities
- Malicious Harassment

Exceptional Misconduct:(cont.)

- Gang/Hate Group Activity
- Trespass
- Computer Trespass, Tampering, and Misuse
- Arson
- False Alarm
- False Threats
- False Reporting
- Lewd Conduct
- Other Exceptional Misconduct

Important Note:

Students who damage or vandalize property belonging to the Seattle Public Schools, a contractor of the District, an employee, or another student may be required to make restitution for such damage. Failure to do so may result in the withholding of a student's grades, transcript, or diploma.

In addition to the above rules, each school will adopt and distribute to each student rules which will govern a student's conduct in that particular school. When students break those school rules, they may be disciplined.

What Happens if a Student Breaks a Rule?

Whenever you are accused of breaking a rule, you have the right to explain your side of the story to your teacher, counselor, assistant principal, or principal before you are disciplined. Your parents/guardians may also meet with school staff to help identify, solve problems, and to consider appropriate consequences. However, if the offense is very serious you may be suspended or expelled.

A school administrator may emergency expel you immediately, provided there is sufficient reason to believe that your presence is dangerous and/or it would cause substantial disruption within the school to have you present in classes, for activities, and at other related school events. If you are suspended, expelled, or emergency expelled you will receive the written Notice of Disciplinary Action (NDA) within 24 hours.

What If You Think You Are Being Treated Unfairly?

If the principal or assistant principal proposes to discipline you, and you think the disciplinary action is unfair or inappropriate, you have the right to appeal the imposed discipline. The various processes for appeal are contained in the Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook, which can be obtained from your school, from the *Student Discipline Office* at 206-252-0820, or on the Seattle Public Schools' website at:

www.seattleschools.org.