



**Seattle School District #1  
Board Resolution**

**Resolution No. 2014/15-35**

**A RESOLUTION** of the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1, King County, Seattle, Washington to have Seattle Public Schools take actions to break the School to Prison pipeline by eliminating out of school suspensions for students in the pre-K through 5th grade levels except in cases of health and safety to themselves or others ~~of physical harm to themselves or others.~~

**WHEREAS**, according to research, zero tolerance and exclusionary discipline policies, namely out-of-school suspensions, have negative effects on both suspended and non-suspended students; and

**WHEREAS**, data shows an alarming rate of suspensions and expulsions during the critical learning years of elementary students, which removes the opportunity to teach appropriate behavior at an early age and affects future academic success; and

**WHEREAS**, there is disproportionality in the discipline ~~rates for above total student population for~~ Special Education, Native American, African American, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, English Language Learners and Latino children that has negative impacts on these groups. (put the remainder in the BAR) ~~at 9.13%, 8.57%, 7.6%, 5%, 2.89% and 2.84%, respectively, while making up 11%, 0.8%, 16.5%, 0.5%, 15% and 12.8%, respectively, of the student K-5 population in Seattle, compared to Boston with rates above total student population for Special Education and African American children at 2.71% and 2.22%, respectively, while making up 17% and 33.8%, respectively, of the student K-5 population in Boston; and~~

**WHEREAS**, historically 2.48% of K-5 Seattle children ~~in grades K-5~~ receive at least one suspension; the District recognizes that valuable instructional time is lost when students are not in the classroom; and

**WHEREAS**, as shown by Baltimore City Public Schools, suspension reform can have a significant impact on rates of out-of-school suspensions dropping from 26,300 to 9,000 over a five year period, from 2009 to 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, students that are suspended in elementary school are more like to be suspended in middle and high school; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Civil Rights Projects, African American students were found to be three times as likely as their peers to be issued an out-of-school suspension, along with almost 1 in 13 Latinos which align to the data from Seattle Public Schools suspension rates; and

**WHEREAS**, compared to Boston, Seattle had more than double the rate of suspension in children K-5, at 2.48% versus 1.22% in Boston; and

**WHEREAS**, in Seattle compared to their White peers, Special Education, Native American, African American, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, English Language Learners and Latino children have suspension rates that are double, and in some cases triple, the overall district suspension rates; and

**WHEREAS**, relative to their percentage of the total K-5 student population of 16% for Native American and African American students, they account for 44% of the suspensions. Similar trends are found in Boston and Portland; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of suspended students in Seattle fall within the “other behavior” category which includes suspensions for non-violent, non-drug related and non-criminal reasons, for which K-5 students overwhelmingly receive short-term, out-of-school suspensions; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education, pursuant to WAC 392-400-215, states: “Students may not be denied equal educational opportunity or be discriminated against because of national origin, race, or a physical, mental or sensory handicap” without good and sufficient cause; and

**WHEREAS**, it is inconsistent with the mission and duty of Seattle Public Schools for disproportionate suspensions to continue to exist.

#### **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that starting with the 2015-16 school year ~~that~~ the Seattle School Board of Directors, instructs the Superintendent to implement ~~that, effective the 2015-16 school year~~, a moratorium on all elementary student out-of-school suspensions, except to protect health and safety of the students and others, ~~will go into effect~~; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent will develop a proposal by June 2016 for a district-wide system to significantly reduce out-of-school suspensions for all grade levels, paying particular attention to the disproportionality in discipline particularly for students of color, Special Education needs and English Language Learners; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Superintendent’s proposal will include adequate definitions, enhanced Multitiered System of Support (MTSS), effective alternative to suspension programs, staff training, case management support, and adequate budget to equip

teachers and administrators for successful student support; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent will develop a district-wide method of detailed data collection of both school based ~~in-school and~~ interventions and out-of-school suspensions and expulsions; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Seattle Public Schools begin work with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to disaggregate the very large “other” category in incident reporting that includes violence and other exceptional incidents, rather than consolidating into one category.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Superintendent will develop a student, staff and community engagement plan to support the efforts to reduce out of classroom discipline and increase instructional time.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Carr, President

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Sharon Peaslee, Vice-President

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Stephan Blanford, Member

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Harium Martin-Morris, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Martha McLaren, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Betty Patu, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Peters, Member

ATTEST:\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Larry Nyland, Superintendent  
Secretary, Board of Directors  
Seattle School District No. 1  
King County, WA