

Seattle Public School Commitments

In committing to safe and welcoming environments in Seattle Public Schools, we recognize the racial disproportionality in the disciplinary responses across our school system AND are dedicated to creating the conditions and relationships for all students to be successful. When students can show up as their authentic selves, they feel valued, welcomed, and safe in school, and are more likely to participate, stay in school, and learn.

- To accomplish this, we will need to:
- Eliminate barriers that keep students from learning by using trauma informed and culturally responsive practices to support students academically, behaviorally, socially, and emotionally;
 - Address the undeniable harm and impact on student engagement and graduation rates when exclusionary practices are used;
 - Provide inclusive and welcoming environments that center student motivation, learning and sense of belonging;
 - Design learning that provides students with flexible options to learn and share what they know;
 - Use student voice to co-create options that ensure more inclusive and equitable learning



School and Staff Responsibilities:

Seattle Public Schools staff members are ethically bound to:

- Ensure an inclusive, safe, and welcoming environment where students feel seen, heard, and valued;
- Care for, and establish positive relationships with students;
- Utilize trauma-informed verbal de-escalation skills in addressing student behavior;
- Provide students the opportunities to learn from mistakes with culturally responsive behavioral, social, and emotional support;
- Implement disciplinary responses that are least disruptive to the student-school relationship, while also maximizing instructional time;
- Partner with students and their families to identify and support their needs;
- Examine their own implicit bias, while working from a culturally responsive and trauma informed lens;
- Seek out, attend, and engage in professional learning that promotes the use of anti-racist practices.

School Safety and Security Services Program

Safety and Security staff support each school's principal in keeping the school safe. They may help address exterior issues, like unauthorized adults attempting to enter the building or interior issues, such as student fights. In all cases, their focus is on matters related to safety. The Safety and Security team is interested in fostering an optimal learning environment and acting as a deterrent to unsafe or poor behavior. While law enforcement may be called in extreme circumstances, such as firearms on school premises, most safety issues are handled by Safety and Security and school administration team without law enforcement involvement. If you need help in staying safe in school, you can reach out to your school security specialist, principal, or the Safety and Security Office at 206-252-0707. (See, Board Policy No. 4311 and Superintendent Procedure No. 4311SP)

Mission

Seattle Public Schools is committed to eliminating opportunity gaps to ensure access and provide excellence in education for every student.

Vision

Every Seattle Public Schools' student receives a high-quality, world-class education and graduates prepared for college, career, and community.

Equity and Compliance Policy:

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 and may be reached by mail, by phone, or email as specified in the information below:

Seattle Public Schools, MS 32-149
PO Box 34165
Seattle, WA 98124-1165

For sex discrimination concerns, including sexual harassment, contact:

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

For disability discrimination concerns, contact:

ADA/Section 504 Grievance Coordinator,
(206) 252-0306
504coordinator@seattleschools.org

For all other types of discrimination, contact:

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

For employee questions about or requests for disability-related accommodations and/or complaints of alleged discrimination, including sexual harassment, contact:

Chief of Human Resources,
Seattle Public Schools, MS 33-157
PO Box 34165
Seattle, WA 98124-1165

206-252-0024 or hreeoc@seattleschools.org

SEATTLE SCHOOL BOARD

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Seattle Public Schools

The Basic Rules of Seattle Public Schools

2025 - 2026



INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT
Mr. Fred Podesta

Student Rights

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

- An inclusive, safe and welcoming classroom and school culture;
- Access to a high-quality education and extracurricular activities;
- Be seen, known, cared for, heard, and valued;
- Experience visibility and representation of your culture in your school's staff and throughout the curriculum;
- Be given opportunity to learn from mistakes with culturally responsive social emotional and behavioral support;
- A clear pathway for reporting racist activity without retaliation.

Additionally, as citizens, students have fundamental rights and schools may not unduly infringe on those rights:

- Freedom from Unlawful Discrimination
- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom of Press
- Freedom to Peaceably Assemble
- Freedom to Petition for a Redress of Grievances
- Freedom of Religion
- Freedom from Sectarian Control or Influence
- Freedom from Unreasonable Searches and Seizures
- Freedom to Pursue an Education While in Custody of the District
- Right to Equal Education Opportunity



Student Responsibilities

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

- Ask for help when needed;
- Treat others with respect;
- Attend and be prepared for school;
- Follow district and school rules;
- Follow dress code (Board Policy No. 3224); and
- Respect property (Board Policy No. 3520).

For more information regarding your responsibilities, please refer to the Basic Rules of Seattle Public Schools.

What Happens if a Student Breaks a Rule?

If you break a school rule, you have a right to:

- Timely investigations into disciplinary incidents;
- Tell your side of the story, and have it documented;
- Explanation of disciplinary decision/response to you and family;
- Reasonable disciplinary response to disciplinary incident;
- Written notification within 24 hours to you and family after initial verbal notification;
- Be provided communication in identified home language;
- Be provided information on right to appeal;
- Be treated with dignity and be allowed to tell your side of the story;
- Have your family involved in any disciplinary response;
- An actively anti-racist disciplinary response with reasonable consequences, including restorative practices and/or mediation;
- Stay informed in your identified home language;
- Request appeal of suspensions and expulsions within five (5) school business days and emergency removals within three (3) school business days.

In order for a school leader to emergency remove a student, a school must have sufficient cause to believe that the student's presence poses: (a) an immediate and continuing danger to other students or school personnel; or (b) an immediate and continuing threat of material and substantial disruption of the educational process. If a student is suspended, expelled, or emergency removed, they will receive the written Notice of Disciplinary Action (NDA) within 24 hours.

Student Behavioral Violations

- Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism
- Arson
- Assault
- (Physical) Aggression
- Computer Misuse, Tampering, and Trespass
- Dangerous Weapons
- Discriminatory Harassment
- Discriminatory Language
- Disobedience
- Disruptive Conduct
- Distributing Alcoholic Beverages
- Distributing Illegal Drugs, Controlled Substances
- Prescription, or Over-the-counter Drugs
- Distributing Marijuana
- Distributing Tobacco/Nicotine Products
- Extortion, Blackmail, Coercion
- False Alarm
- False Reporting
- False Threats
- Fighting
- Firearms
- Fireworks, Explosives, Chemicals, & Incendiary Devices
- Gambling
- Graffiti
- Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying
- Hate Group Activity
- Hazing
- Inappropriate Language
- Inappropriate Touching
- Interference with School Authorities
- Intimidation of School Authorities
- Lewd Conduct
- Malicious Property Damage
- Misrepresentation
- Other Exceptional Misconduct
- Possessing or Using Illegal Drugs, Controlled Substances, Prescription, or Over-the-counter Drugs
- Possessing or Using Alcoholic Beverages
- Possessing or using Marijuana
- Possessing or Using Tobacco/Nicotine Products
- Possession of Stolen Property
- Robbery
- Rule-breaking
- Selling Alcoholic Beverages
- Selling Illegal Drugs, Controlled Substances, Prescription, or Over-the-counter Drugs
- Selling Marijuana
- Selling Tobacco/Nicotine Products
- Sexual Assault
- Sexual Harassment
- Theft
- Threats of Violence
- Trespass

What if a Student Thinks They Are Being Treated Unfairly?

If the school leader proposes a disciplinary response, and a student thinks that is unfair or inappropriate, the student has the right to appeal the imposed discipline. The various processes for appealing are contained in the Basic Rules of Seattle Public Schools, which may be obtained from the student's school, from the Student Discipline Office at 206-252-0820 or on the Seattle Public Schools' website at www.seattleschools.org.



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

Seattle Public Schools prohibits the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of drugs and alcohol by anyone on school property, on school-sponsored transportation, or as part of school activities. Compliance with this rule is mandatory; students who disregard the prohibition may be subject to a disciplinary response. Seattle Public Schools offers or can assist in arranging access to drug and alcohol education, counseling, and recovery support. For further information, contact your school leader, school social worker or counselor.