

Student Discipline

University Place School District is committed to establishing and maintaining a safe, orderly environment that supports learning for all students. Effective, practical, equitable and culturally responsive practices related to classroom management and schoolwide discipline are necessary to achieve this end. Furthermore, the district is committed to the use of research-based best practices in all of its efforts- including those related to classroom management and student discipline. Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports (PBIS/PBS) will be used to guide this important work.

Student Discipline

"Discipline" means any action taken by the school district in response to behavioral violations. Discipline may be punitive, but can also take positive and supportive forms. The purposes of this policy and the accompanying procedure include:

- Providing a safe and orderly environment for all students and staff that is conducive to learning,
- Teaching and supporting students to meet behavioral expectations and to be successful in school,
- Engaging parents in the process of helping students meet behavior expectations,
- Ensuring fairness, equity, and due process in the administration of discipline,
- Engaging with families and the community to understand and be responsive to cultural context,
- Administering discipline in ways that improves conduct and responds to the needs and strengths of students,
- Administering discipline in ways that keep students in the classroom to the maximum extent possible
- Providing educational services that students need during suspension and expulsion, and
- Facilitating collaboration between school personnel, students, and parents, to support successful reentry into the classroom following a suspension or expulsion

The Superintendent shall 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.

Responding to Conduct Violations

Unless a student's presence poses an immediate and continuing danger to others or an immediate and continuing threat to the educational process, staff will first attempt one or more interventions or 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.

The accompanying procedure will identify a list of other forms of discipline for staff use prior to the administration of exclusionary discipline. However, staff members are not restricted to that list and may use any other form of discipline compliant with WAC 392-400-025(9).

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 and students to develop a reengagement plan that is tailored to the student's individual circumstances. Additionally, any student who has been suspended or expelled may apply for readmission at any time.

Staff Authority

Designated district staff members have authority to impose disciplinary consequences and respond to behavior violations during the school day, during school activities, whether on or off campus, and on the school bus. 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.

Parental Notice and Involvement

The district recognizes that parents play an important role in supporting appropriate conduct and teaching behavior to their students. School personnel will make early, reasonable attempts to involve parents when responding to behavioral violations. The district will notify parents as soon as reasonably possible about classroom exclusion and before administering any suspension or expulsion. The district will permit students to contact their parents when short term suspension is being considered as a possible response to a behavior violation. The district will provide opportunity for parent participation during an initial hearing with the student when long term suspension or expulsion is under consideration. 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 will ensure that policies, procedures, and associated notices, hearings, conferences, meetings, plans, proceedings, agreements, petitions, and decisions are in a language the student and parents understand; this may require language assistance pursuant policy 4218, Language Access.

Grievance and Appeal Procedures for Students and Parents

The district has established procedures to address grievances of parents or students related to all 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.

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.

Collection and Review of Discipline Data

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. This data will be shared with the Board of Directors and will be available to the public through the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Should the review of data indicate disproportionality, the district will take action to ensure that it is not the result of discrimination. Policies and procedures will be updated, as needed, in response to data.

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. The school district will ensure district employees and contractors are knowledgeable of the discipline policies and procedures.

Cross References:

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
3210 - Nondiscrimination
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

Adoption Date: February 12, 2012
Classification: **Essential**
Revised Dates: January 25, 2017; July 10, 2019