

# Discipline Overview

## General Education & Special Education Students

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### Did You Know?!

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for Washington State has **New Student Discipline Rules** that were adopted July 30, 2018. Please see Washington Administrative Code (WAC) under WAC 392-400

### Did You Know?!

You can find Washington State discipline laws under the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and in the rules under Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

### Did You Know?!

Some of the **New Student Discipline Rules** did not go into effective until the 2019-2020 school year.

### Did You Know?!

The New Student Discipline Rules are for general education students. Remember, a special education student first has the same rights as a general education student.

### Did You Know?!

Special education students have additional rights.

### Did You Know?!

School districts must adopt written policies and procedures for supporting students in meeting behavioral expectations and administering discipline.

Please see Washington Administrative Code (WAC) under WAC 392-400-110

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### New Rule

School districts must **eliminate** any zero-tolerance approaches in local discipline policies and procedures that **require mandatory suspension** or **expulsion** in response to any behavioral violation other than firearms violations.

Please see Washington Administrative Code (WAC) under WAC 392-400-435(1); WAC 392-400-440(1); WAC 392-400-445(1)

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### New Rule

A school district may **not** administer a **long-term suspension** for any student in kindergarten through fourth grade. The exception is firearms.

Please see Washington Administrative Code (WAC) under WAC 392-400-440

### New Rule

Before administering a **short-term** or **in-school suspension**, a school district must first attempt one or more other forms of discipline to support the student in meeting behavioral expectations. Administering other forms of discipline may involve the use of best practices and strategies included in the state menu for behavior developed under RCW 28A.165.035.

Please see Washington Administrative Code (WAC) under WAC 392-400-435

### New Rule

At an initial hearing in which the principal or designee is considering administering a **short-term** or **in-school suspension**, the principal or designee must provide the student an opportunity for the student to contact the student's parents.

Please see Washington Administrative Code (WAC) under WAC 392-400-450

### New Rule

Before administering any **suspension** or **expulsion**, the principal or designee must conduct an informal initial hearing with the student for the purpose of hearing the student's perspective. At the initial hearing, the principal or designee must provide the student:

- Notice of the student's violation of the school district's discipline policy
- An explanation of the evidence regarding the behavioral violation
- An explanation of the discipline that may be administered
- An opportunity for the student to share the student's perspective and provide explanation regarding the behavioral violation

Please see Washington Administrative Code (WAC) under WAC 392-400-450

### New Rule

For students subject to **suspension** or **emergency expulsion** for up to five consecutive school days, a school district must provide at least the following:

- Course work, including any assigned homework, from all of the student's regular subjects or classes.
- Access to school personnel who can offer support to keep the student current with assignments and course work for all the student's regular subjects or classes.
- An opportunity for the student to make up any assignments and tests missed during the period of suspension or emergency expulsion.

Please see Washington Administrative Code (WAC) under WAC 392-400-610

### New Rule

Classroom exclusions are a part of the new rules. **Classroom exclusions** does not include actions that result in missed instruction for a brief duration.

Please see Washington Administrative Code (WAC) under WAC 392-400-330

### New Rule

A school district may not **suspend** or **expel** a student from school for absences or tardiness.

Please see Washington Administrative Code (WAC) under WAC 392-400-430

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### Resource

Student Discipline Rules Questions & Answers  
A Technical Guide  
Published September 2019

Found on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), under Student Discipline.

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## Terminology to Understand

Please see Washington Administrative Code (WAC) under WAC 392-400-025 Definitions

Behavioral violation means a student's behavior that violates a school district's discipline policy adopted under WAC 392-400-110

Discipline means any action taken by a school district in response to behavioral violations

Disruption of the educational process means the interruption of classwork, the creation of disorder, or the invasion of the rights of a student or group of students

Length of an academic term means the total number of school days in a single trimester or semester, as defined by the school board

Other forms of discipline means actions used in response to behavioral violations, other than classroom exclusion, suspension, expulsion, or emergency expulsion, which may involve the use of best practices and strategies included in the state menu for behavior developed under RCW 28A.165.035

School business day means any calendar day, except Saturdays, Sundays, or any federal, state, or school holiday, when the office of the superintendent of a school district is open to the public for business

School day means any day or partial day that students are in attendance at school for instructional purposes