

Lake Washington School District

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Behavioral Expectations of Students

Students in our schools generally exhibit positive behavior. We believe that student development occurs best within an atmosphere of mutual respect, and therefore any behavior that undermines this respect cannot be allowed. Teachers, administrators, and staff will not tolerate any behavior that materially interferes with or is detrimental to the orderly operation of school, school-sponsored activities or any other aspect of the educational process. School jurisdiction and authority include student conduct to and from school, at school, at bus stops, on busses, and at any school sponsored activity. Also included in the school's jurisdiction is any off-campus student speech or activity which school authorities have reason to believe will interfere with the work of the school or impinge on the rights of other students or staff at school. Such acts, including but not limited to those listed in this handbook, shall be subject to discipline, including possible suspension and/or expulsion from school, and /or referral to law enforcement authorities.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

We believe for every right there is a responsibility. This responsibility includes the freedom to exercise your rights in a manner that is not offensive to the recipient. We trust students will respectfully accept and adhere to the following:

Rights

- Students have the right to a safe environment free from intimidation, sexual harassment, and assault.
- Students have the right to a productive learning environment.
- Students have the right to clean and safe classrooms, hallways and lunchroom.
- Students have the right to safe passage to and from school and while on campus.
- Students have the right to expect staff to help solve their problems.
- Students have the right to engage in the grievance process.
- Students have the right to remain anonymous when reporting a violation of school rules.
- Students have the right to engage in respectful speech that expresses their thoughts and opinions as long as it is not disruptive to the educational environment.
- Students have the right to actively participate in a problem-solving process in order to facilitate successful closure.
- Students have the right to exercise freedom of expression as part of the instructional process. However, this freedom is subject to reasonable regulation and may not be used to disrupt the educational environment or interfere with the rights of others.

Responsibilities

- Students are responsible for their own behavior.
- Students are responsible for respecting school property and personal belongings.
- Students are responsible for attending school and all classes daily and on time.
- Students are expected to exhibit conduct which is courteous, cooperative, and responsible, and which displays regard for the safety and welfare of others, including students, staff, and substitutes at school and all school related activities.
- Students are responsible for being prepared for class; i.e., bringing appropriate and necessary materials to class on a daily basis.
- Students are responsible for informing staff of behavior which may be harmful to an individual or themselves.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

According to the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, schools must be totally free of unlawful drugs or alcohol. No one is allowed to possess, use, solicit, or distribute tobacco, drugs, or alcohol while at school or while taking part in any school activities.

Dangerous Weapons

Possessing, using, transferring, or transporting any object that could reasonably be considered a firearm or dangerous weapon or possessing any exploding item device or substance that would be capable of producing bodily harm or cause damage to property or disruption of the educational process is strictly prohibited. Violation of this rule is considered serious to the safety and welfare of both the student who violates it and others in the District and such a disruption to the educational process, that emergency expulsion will always be immediately enacted. By law, we are required to notify the local law enforcement agency of a violation of this rule. Also by law, in the case of possession of a firearm, we are required to expel the student. The duration of the expulsion will be at least one school year and may be permanent.

Student Searches

Administrators may make general searches of all student desks or storage areas without prior notice given to students. An individual student, his/her property, and automobiles parked on campus, may be searched by school district employees if the search is reasonably related to the discovery of contraband or other evidence of a student's violation of the law or school rules.

Illegal items or other possessions reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety or security of others shall be seized by school authorities. Items which are used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process may be temporarily removed from students' possession.

Drug-Scenting Dogs

The purpose behind inspections by dogs is to discourage students from bringing, keeping, and/or using drugs on school grounds. RCW 28A.600.210 states: “The legislature finds that illegal drug activity and weapons in schools threaten the safety and welfare of our school children and pose a severe threat to the state educational system. School officials need to protect students from exposure to illegal drugs, weapons, and contraband. Searches of school-issued lockers and the contents of those lockers is a reasonable and necessary tool to protect the interests of the students of the state as a whole.” With this purpose in mind, administration has the authority to invite drug-scenting dogs to conduct suspicionless searches on school property.