

Discipline Discussion and Guidance



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Overview



- Parent Presentation
- Staff Presentation
 - ✦ Overview of Federal Discipline Guidance
 - ✦ Overview of Potential Resolution
- Board Discussion



Federal Discipline Guidance



- **Package of guidance and resources**
 - ✦ Provides context for what will be looked for in reviews and investigations
 - ✦ Provides suggestions for improvements in policy and practice
 - ✦ Focuses on protecting civil rights of students
- **Department of Education (USED) Office of Civil Rights is currently reviewing Seattle Public Schools**
 - ✦ Disproportionate discipline of students according to race/ethnicity



Considerations



- Guidance emphasizes that districts and schools have an obligation to ensure fairness and equity
 - ✦ Title IV prohibition of discrimination on basis of race in public schools
 - ✦ Title VI prohibition of discrimination on basis of race by recipients of federal funds
 - ✦ USED Office of Civil Rights and Department of Justice responsible for enforcement



Federal Concerns



- Research findings of impacts of exclusionary discipline:
 - ✦ Increased dropouts
 - ✦ Decreased student achievement
 - ✦ Disengagement
 - ✦ Increased behavioral problems
 - ✦ Increased involvement with the juvenile justice system
- Different treatment of students
- Differential impact on students



Guiding Principles



- 3 guiding principles:
 - ✦ Create positive school environments and focus on prevention
 - ✦ Establish clear, appropriate consistent expectations and consequences
 - ✦ Consistently use data to evaluate discipline practices' fairness and equity and consistently improve



Actions and Strategies



- **Positive school climate**
 - ✦ Restorative justice
 - ✦ PBIS and other tiered intervention approaches
 - ✦ New social-emotional curricula
 - ✦ Staff training
 - ✦ Clearly defined roles for law enforcement in schools
 - ✦ Involve families in policy development



Actions and Strategies



- **Expectations and consequences**
 - ✦ Set high expectations
 - ✦ Involve school community in policy development (students, teachers, parents)
 - ✦ Set developmentally appropriate consequences
 - ✦ **Remove students as last resort**



Actions and Strategies



- **Fairness and equity**
 - ✦ Train staff in implementing discipline policies equitably
 - ✦ Use data for continuous improvement



Board Resolution



- Affirms commitment to working to improve discipline practices in Washington
- Asserts intention to explore incorporation of a discipline indicator in the indicators of educational system health
- Resolves to encourage districts to examine their discipline policies and practices in light of the federal guidance



Guiding Questions



- What are the State Board of Education's priorities in addressing the issue of discipline?
- What aspects of the discipline issue are most important for the Board to measure?
- What are the Board's next steps in addressing this issue?



Resources



- Website: www.SBE.wa.gov
- Blog: washingtonSBE.wordpress.com
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/washingtonSBE
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/wa_SBE
- Email: sbe@sbe.wa.gov
- Phone: 360-725-6025

