

# Changes to Washington State Rules & Regulations Governing Student Discipline

Presentation to Mount Vernon School District Board of Directors  
January 8, 2020

# History: Prior to 2013

- Expulsions could be indefinite
- Emergency expulsions could be continued as regular expulsions and continue indefinitely
- Not required to provide educational services during most suspensions, all expulsions
- District decided which types of misconduct warrant suspension or expulsion

## From 2013 to 2016, the laws were changed to:

- address disproportionate exclusion of students of color through suspensions and expulsions by:
  1. requiring attempts to use “other forms of discipline,” including those that are more culturally sensitive
  2. limiting suspensions and expulsions to more serious misconduct
  3. imposing time limits on suspension and expulsion
  4. requiring accountability for any student exclusion

# As of this school year

- In school suspension is treated as a short-term suspension
- Long-term suspension/expulsion limited to length of academic term (90 school days)
  - May petition superintendent for longer
- Long-term suspensions/expulsions used solely for particularly severe offenses
- Students who are long-term suspended or expelled must be provided with educational services.
- Reengagement plans mandatory with family input are mandatory
- Emergency expulsion converted or rescinded within 10 days

# Classroom Exclusions

School District must first attempt one or more “other forms of discipline” before administering classroom exclusion unless the student’s presence poses an immediate and continuing danger to others or an immediate and continuing threat to the educational process.

Classroom exclusions must be documented by the teacher.

# Short Term Suspension

- Exclusion from school for 10 days or less
  - K-4: 10 days during academic term
  - 5-12: 15 days during semester, or 10 days during trimester
- Not for first offense unless attempted other form(s) of discipline
- Must not exceed school year in which violation occurred

# Suspensions/Expulsions: Limitations

During suspension/expulsion may NOT:

- Suspend educational services
- Prevent from competing subject, grade-level, or graduation requirements
- Be imposed for absences or tardiness
- Preclude student from returning to regular education setting following end date if in new program or course of study, unless:
  - Superintendent grants petition to extend expulsion;
  - Excluded in accordance with protecting victims; or
  - Otherwise allowed by law.

# Implications for the District

- Communication
- Training for teachers
- Training for administrators
- Consistent, schoolwide system of positive behavioral supports
- Additional supports for students requiring level 2 and level 3 social emotional interventions