

State Headquarters:
1225 South Weller Street, Suite 420
Seattle, WA 98144
(206) 322-2444

Offices in King, Pierce, Snohomish, Yakima and
Spokane Counties
questions@teamchild.org
www.teamchild.org



**All children have the
potential to succeed.**

School Discipline & Reengagement

LEV Training
February 11, 2017
Karen Pillar & Reyna Rollolazo

School Discipline Basics

- Students have a right to education under Washington Constitution
- School districts can remove kids from school building through suspension and expulsion
 - State law places some limits on this
- Students and parents have a right to Notice and to Challenge discipline
- Districts must educate students during removal
- With families, districts must create culturally sensitive and responsive Reengagement Plan



Forms of Removal

- **Short-Term Suspension**
 - Removal for 10 school days or less
- **Long-Term Suspension** - Only for certain offenses!
 - Suspension lasting longer than 10 school days, but not exceeding one "academic term"
- **Expulsion** - Only for certain offenses!
 - Exclusion for a specific period of time not exceeding one "academic term"
- **Emergency Expulsion**
 - Immediate removal from school property for up to and not exceeding ten consecutive school days
- **Discipline**
 - All forms of corrective action other than suspension and expulsion



New LIMITS on Long-Term Suspension and Expulsion

- LTS and E only allowed for SPECIFIC offenses:
 - Firearms offense
 - Certain violent offenses, sex offenses, drug and alcohol offenses, assault, kidnapping, harassment and arson
 - 2 or more violations within a 3-year period of: gang activity, weapons, willful disobedience, defacing school property
 - behavior that "adversely impacts the health and safety of other students or staff"
 - CANNOT be used as "discretionary discipline"
- CANNOT exceed one "academic term"
- Districts must provide educational services



Student Right to Notice

Notice: 1) Why removed, 2) for how long, and
3) right to challenge

Discipline	How delivered?	When?	To Whom?
STS	Oral or written	Before imposed	Student (if longer than 1 day, to family)
LTS and Expulsion	Written - in person or certified mail	Before imposed	Student and Parent/Guardian
Emergency Expulsion	Written - in person or certified mail	Within 24 hours	Student and Parent/Guardian



Student Right to Challenge Discipline

- Short-Term Suspension:
 - Student has right to **Informal Conference**
- Long-Term Suspensions and Expulsion:
 - Student has 3 days to request **Hearing**
- Emergency Expulsion:
 - Student has 10 days to request **Hearing**

Tip: Act quickly! Request hearing in writing as soon as you receive the notice.



Student Right to ask for Readmission

- Students can petition school district to be re-admitted before suspension or expulsion is over
- Essentially an application to return to school
- Focus is not on what happened but on whether youth is ready to return to school
- Can make request any time and repeatedly
- Each school district has different readmission procedures. Ask the District.



Reengagement Meetings

- Schools must hold reengagement meetings within 20 days of imposition of LTS or Expulsion but no later than 5 days of the end of the discipline
- To discuss a plan to reengage the student in a school program
- Families must have access to a culturally sensitive and responsive reengagement plan and process
- These are not to take the place of readmission petitions



Reengagement Plans

Plan Must Consider:

- Shortening the length of the discipline
- Other forms of corrective action
- Supportive interventions that aid in the student's academic success
- Keep the student engaged and on track to graduate
- Tailored to the student's individual circumstances
- Aid the student in taking the necessary steps to remedy the situation that led to the student's discipline

Families must have access to a culturally sensitive and responsive reengagement plan and process



Group Exercise on Reengagement

- Resource:
 - “Reengagement Meetings - Tips for Families”
- Hypothetical:
 - 9th grader is long-term suspended for selling marijuana at school
- Questions to consider:
 - How might your student make amends (repair damage to relationships)?
 - How might the school support better outcomes and/or repair the relationship between the school (staff) and your student and you?



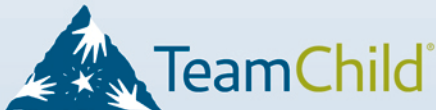
Resources

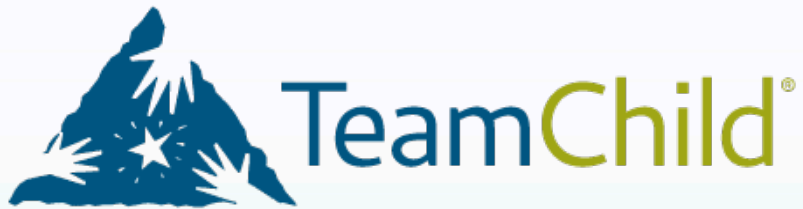
- **TeamChild, Statewide Headquarters:** (206) 322-2444
- **WAC Ch. 392-400:** explains discipline procedures
- **Office of the Education Ombudsman (OEO):** resolves complaints, disputes, and problems between families and Washington State elementary and secondary public schools in all areas that affect student learning. Toll-free phone number: 866-297-2597, <http://www.governor.wa.gov/o eo/default.asp>
- **Education Advocacy Manual and Reengagement Meeting Tips** in pdf: www.teamchild.org



South King County Discipline Coalition

- Who?** Parents, students, families, community groups, organizations
- Why?** End disproportionate discipline of students of color
- What?** Community Partnerships & Organizing
Policy advocacy
- When & Where?** Wednesday, Feb. 22, 6-8pm
Salvation Army White Center
Community Center





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Thank You! Questions?

“Treat people as if they were what they
should be, and you help them become
what they are capable of becoming.”

-Goethe