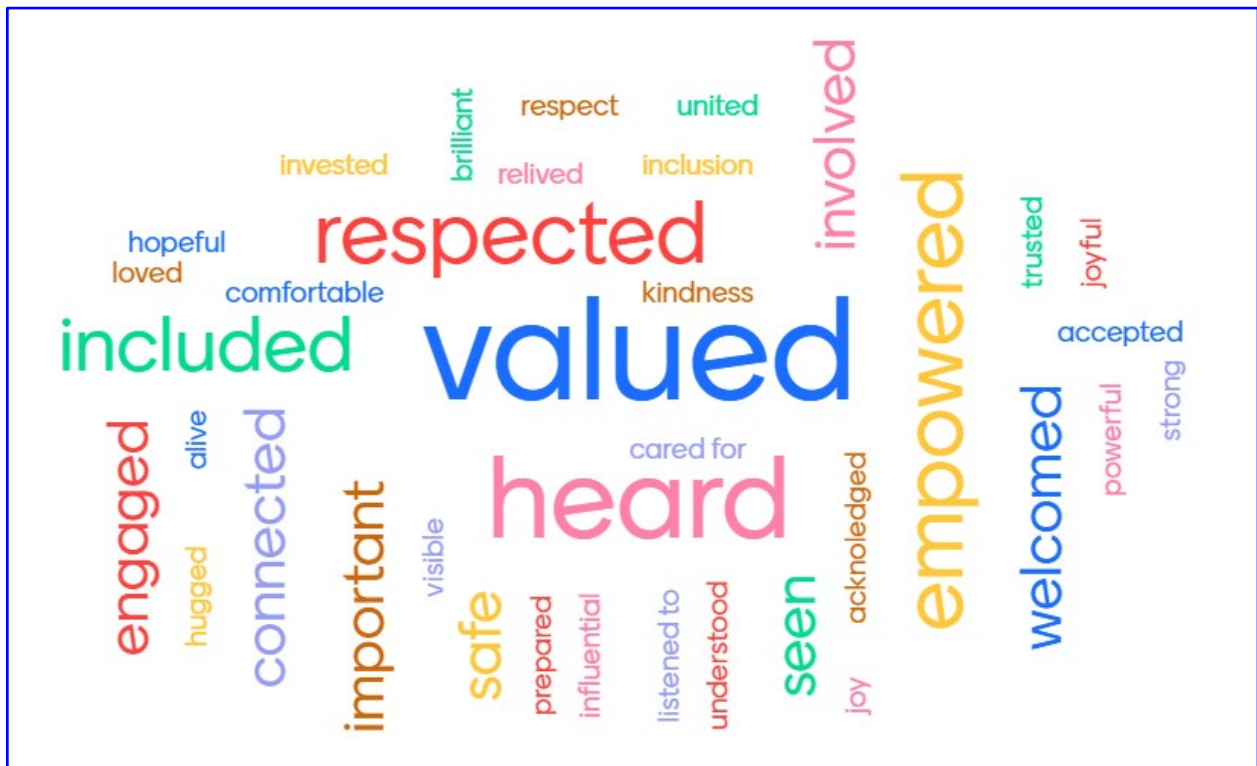
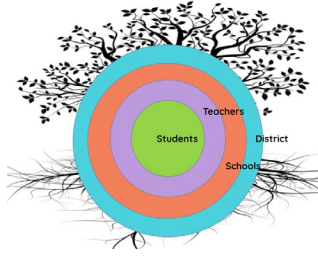


# Re-Imagining Student Experiences Recommendations

*Spring 2021*





## RISE Recommendations

Following the first global pandemic of our generation that resulted in school closures and only a limited return to in-person instruction for some students after a year of remotely learning, we are faced with planning for all students to return to schools in the fall of 2021. As educational leaders, we recognize our responsibility to reach far beyond finding a “new normal”; the pandemic highlighted existing inequities which we have a real opportunity to address in powerful ways. The RISE coalition offers the following vision of a student experience that is meaningful, equitable, intellectually engaging and results in powerful individual and collective growth, as well as recommendations designed to realize this vision of student learning. The recommendations are organized in recognition of the belief that the parts of our system must adjust in alignment in order to create a coherent, systematic effort to achieve this vision. Last, we have offered additional recommendations to assist in the initial implementation of operationalizing the recommendations.

### Purpose

If we want significantly more equitable experiences and outcomes for students, we will commit and collaborate at all levels to meaningfully improve our practices in four key areas:

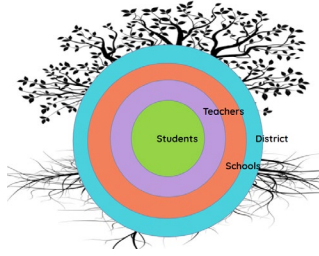
- Core Learning and Teaching
- Social Emotional Learning
- Culturally Relevant/Responsive Teaching
- Family and Community Engagement

Essential Questions:

- If we took advantage of this as an opportunity to reflect, grow and adjust, what would we want to be true for students and families at the end?
- How do we assess impacts, prioritize needs and implement practices that increase the equity of experiences and outcomes for students?
- How do we respond in ways that avoid unintentionally perpetuating inequitable outcomes for BIPOC students?

### Rise Coalition Members

With the goal of engaging staff, students, families and labor partners to provide meaningful input, Jessica Calabrese Granger, Chief of School Improvement, and Ellen Dorr, Chief Technology Officer, were tasked with creating and facilitating the coalition. They identified educators throughout the district to participate, based on several priorities: subject area expertise, experience, service area, participation on



## RISE Recommendations

the committee to create Learning and Teaching Recommendation Spring 2020, and racial diversity. Families and students were invited by one of the four administrators in the coalition because of an existing relationship and knowledge that the student and guardian would be able to speak to barriers they've experienced. Throughout April and May of 2021, this coalition met together to co-create a vision that would inform planning for how to ensure a more equitable experience for students in Renton schools as we "come back better" from the pandemic.

### Students

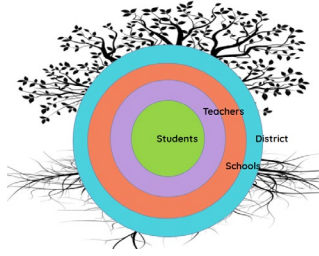
- Narciso Carig, 12th grade student at Renton High School
- Dimmitt Student
- Renton Park Student

### Family Members

- Giovanna Zamora Vazquez, parent, Renton Park
- Kristina Wendorf, parent, Bryn Mawr, Dimmitt, Renton High
- Memo Rivera, parent, Campbell Hill, Bryn Mawr, Dimmitt, Renton High
- Nelsen Guardian

### Renton School District Staff

- Amanda Kirklin, Lakeridge, Special Education
- Anthony Ase, Dimmitt, Math
- Argentina Back, Early Learning Facilitator
- Cheryl Jackson Williams, RIZ Partnership Coordinator
- Clemisha Davis, Sartori, 2nd grade
- Courtney Stepp, Benson Hill, Kinder, REA representative
- Creed Nelsen, Lindbergh, CTE
- Devyna Aguon-Mang, SEL facilitator
- Gia San Martin, Renton High, Principal
- Gioia Pitts, Chief of Secondary
- Jared Detamore, McKnight, Science
- John Schmitz, Chief of Elementary
- Julia Buller, Benson Hill, 3rd grade and SIOP
- Karan Mahna, Hazen, Math
- Karen Kawamoto, Sartori, Paraeducator, RESP representative
- Katie Sheehan-Colon, Lindbergh, LA, REA representative
- Kay Edgerton, HOME Facilitator, REA representative
- Pamela Washington, Renton Park, Principal
- Stephanie Latimer, Bryn Mawr, Math Coach
- Steve Rencher, Nelsen, Principal
- Teri Barlow, LA/SS Facilitator



## RISE Recommendations

### Vision of Student Experience

***Student Experience: What do we want students to experience in all learning environments?***

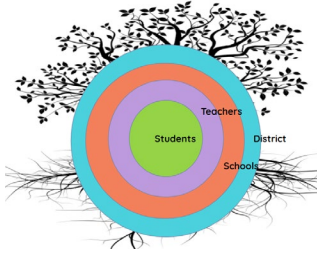
#### **Core Learning and Teaching**

- Students will be recognized for their brilliance and strengths, including cultural, linguistic, etc., and growth is recognized and celebrated
- Students will develop their identity as a learner, including self-monitoring for understanding, self-advocating, sharing responsibility for the learning community, problem-solving and being accountable for their own sense-making
- Learning will be collective: Students will learn through discussion and growing ideas together, by sharing knowledge, by asking questions, by sharing progress and revising their thinking over time, being actively engaged, taking risks and seeing mistakes as learning opportunities
- Instructional experiences will be grounded in: differentiation, accessibility, process not product, student agency (voice and choice), meaningful/relevant, inquiry, understanding multiple perspectives and developing one's own informed perspective, authentic and timely feedback, joy in learning
- Students will feel confident and included in all content areas
- Students will learn 21st Century skills: collaborate, communicate, create, critically think and have opportunities for real world application
- Students will be aware of how their current learning and milestones help contribute to their progress toward their desired futures
- Students will have access to adult teachers/mentors of choice other than the adults assigned to them due to their class/grade level/etc.

#### **Culturally Relevant/Responsive Teaching Practices**

Students will...

- See themselves represented in teaching staff and in the culture of the school
- See authentic diverse representation in curriculum
- Learn more accurate and inclusive history and contributions of historically marginalized populations
- Experience opportunities to develop their cultural identity
- Feel included and recognized for cultural and linguistic strengths and abilities
- Feel confident, particularly students from under-represented groups, to advocate and provide input about culturally relevant events, particularly under-represented voices, regarding social



## RISE Recommendations

justice, traditional narrative, culturally relevant events, etc. to ensure inclusive and supportive environments

### Social Emotional Learning

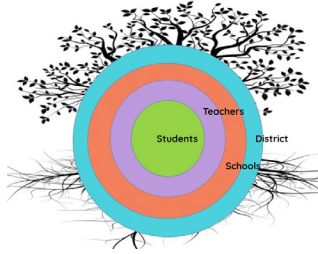
Students will experience and contribute to learning communities that center on:

- Sense of belonging and importance
- Student input/voice
- Respect (student and adult)
- Inclusion
- Valuing diversity and uniqueness
- Explicit learning and development of emotional health and safety
- Acceptance
- Relationship
- Restorative practices
- Solutions-focus
- Genuine care and empathy
- Developing trust
- Joy and happiness
- Empowerment
- Building a growth mindset by being supported in persevering through challenges

### Family and Community Engagement

Students and families will...

- Feel welcome in the school community
- Experience meaningful relationships with teachers and members of the larger school community
- Be provided supports and resources to bridge language or other differences to ensure greater inclusion
- Feel knowledgeable, invited, and empowered to participate in schooling
- Be valued and included as a source of expertise
- Share decision-making power and have visibility into the process
- Have voice in the development of curriculum, instruction, and assessment grounded in culturally relevant practices
- Have avenues to address concerns, complaints, conflicts, etc. without fear, with expectation for resolution



## RISE Recommendations

### Recommendations

The recommendations were developed based on a clear vision of what we want students to experience. In order to translate this vision into actions, we determined recommendations categorized into organizational areas of responsibility and areas of practice that impact a student's experience.

#### Area of Organizational Responsibility:

- [Classroom/Teacher Practice](#)
- [School Leadership](#)
- [District Leadership](#)

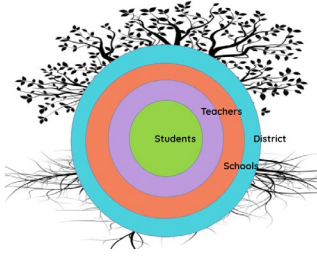
#### Areas of Practice:

- [Core Learning and Teaching](#)
- [Social Emotional Learning](#)
- [Culturally Responsive/Relevant Teaching](#)
- [Family and Community Engagement](#)

### Implementation Recommendations

The RISE Coalition offers the following recommendations to support the initial steps of implementation.

- **Clear Process:**
  - Develop a process by which all schools identify meaningful and measurable goals in all four areas of practice addressed by the recommendations
  - Define criteria and process by which school's goals will be evaluated
  - Monitor progress and provide feedback during the year to ensure course corrections when necessary
- **Accountability:**
  - Internal Accountability: Ensure school's plans include strategies to monitor implementation and evidence of impact
    - Provide guidance and feedback to schools to ensure goals and plans are aligned and, if met, will meaningfully impact students, staff and families as described in the recommendations
  - Expect plans to identify strategies that require meaningful engagement and active participation; do not accept compliance
  - Ensure coherence across the four areas of the school's plan
  - Require pacing of strategies that supports effective implementation of all areas of the school's plan
  - Apply an equity lens to examine proposed goals and practices in order to advance educational justice



## RISE Recommendations

- External Accountability: Ensure schools engage students, staff and community in designing and monitoring plans
- **Differentiate Supports:**
  - Allow flexibility for schools to contextualization supports, strategies, and expectations
  - Provide funding to support plans once approved
  - Align RSD departments' support to each school's plan
- **Communicate with and Engage District and Community Stakeholders:**
  - Vision
  - Goals
  - Action Plans
  - Progress toward Goals
  - Opportunities for Input