

INTEGRATION OF CIVICS AND STUDENT CONDUCT: 2130

Our form of governance and freedom itself depends upon enlightened self-government. To these ends, education should “provide students with the opportunity to become responsible citizens.” Self-restraint, civility and discipline are at the core of self-government and are dependent on certain values and character traits. State law provides that schools have the “responsibility for determining how these values and character traits are learned as determined by consensus at the local level. These values and traits include the importance of:

1. Honesty, integrity, and trust;
2. Respect for self and others;
3. Responsibility for personal actions and commitments;
4. Self-discipline and moderation;
5. Diligence and a positive work ethic;
6. Respect for law and authority;
7. Healthy and positive behavior; and
8. Family as the basis of society.”

The District finds that self-restraint, civility and discipline in our schools are crucial to a proper learning environment. The District further finds that discipline policies should not just be about punishment for transgressions, but that discipline policies should provide a vision by which the best in all students can be realized. Self-discipline is a positive character trait that leads to success. Embracing the potential of all students to become responsible citizens and recognizing good behavior in our children will encourage others to follow. Therefore, it is necessary to provide a civics program in all grades that emphasizes character traits that best meet the ends of self-government, self-restraint, and responsible citizenship.

The District believes that it must conduct its business to the highest standards possible because adults have the responsibility to model exemplary behavior in all they do. Parents, teachers, administrators, staff, and other adults must also recognize that their conduct has an effect on our youth.

Finally, and most importantly, adults must realize that their failure to enforce rules is not consistent with providing students with the opportunity to become responsible citizens. All student conduct policies, rules, and procedures regarding student conduct must be interpreted and carried out with the above in mind.

The District encourages the continuation of existing programs and instruction that are consistent with this policy. The District also encourages immediate implementation of actions consistent with this policy that do not require changes in curriculum or official action of the Board.

Legal References:	RCW 28A.150.210	Basic education–Goals of school districts
	RCW 28A.150.211	Values and traits recognized
	RCW 28A.230.020	Common school curriculum