



2024-2025

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Bethel School District #403 • 516 E 176th St • Spanaway, WA 98387

This document may also be found at www.bethelsd.org.

Dear Students, Parents and Staff Members,

One of Bethel School District's primary goals is to provide a safe, positive learning environment for our students. The underlying purpose of a clear, fair discipline policy is to ensure that all Bethel's young people can be confident that their school is a safe, secure place to learn and grow.

This document contains the rights, responsibilities, and regulations for students who attend Bethel Schools. Parents, please join your son or daughter in reviewing its contents. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the principal at your student's school.

Sincerely,
Brian Lowney, Interim Superintendent

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

In order to maintain and advance the mission of the Bethel School District, it is the responsibility and duty of each student to:

- Pursue a course of studies and make reasonable efforts to learn.
- Attend school daily and be on time to all classes.
- Be aware of and obey all school rules.
- Express opinions and ideas in a respectful manner without libeling or slandering others.
- Act in a manner that will not detract from the education of anyone.
- Respect the rights of others and exercise self-discipline.
- Follow established procedures in seeking changes in the school rules.
- Identify oneself to school staff when requested on any school property or at any school activity.
- Follow the requests of school employees in the performance of their duties.
- Comply with written school rules that are adopted to carry out WAC 392-400-225 and RCW 28A.600.010.
- Submit to reasonable corrective action imposed by school staff for violation of school rules.
- Ensure that the lockers assigned to them contain no illegal drugs, weapons, contraband, or other evidence of violations of public law or district policy or school rules. Lockers are subject to search without prior notice.
- Follow the requests of school officials for the purpose of maintaining a safe and orderly school environment.

[Responsibilities, Rights and Authority](#)

STUDENT RIGHTS

As citizens of the United States students have certain constitutional rights. The school system cannot unduly infringe on those rights. The school may, however, set reasonable limits on those rights in order to meet the district's obligation to educate.

- [Nondiscrimination](#)
- [Freedom of Expression](#)
- [Freedom of Assembly](#)
- [Religious-Related Activities and Practices](#)
- [Student Privacy and Searches](#)

[Student-Owned and Provided Transportation](#)

[Athletic Activities](#)

[Student Activities](#)

[Noncurriculum-Related Student Groups](#)

[Student Clubs](#)

[Prohibition of Corporal Punishment](#)

[Grading and Progress Reports](#)

[Associated Student Body](#)

Each student is guaranteed the equal opportunity to have access to an education and the district may not limit this right except for good and sufficient cause. No student shall be deprived the right to an equal educational opportunity without due process as provided in WAC 392-400.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

[Excused and Unexcused Absences](#)

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

[Student Discipline](#)

[Classroom Management, Discipline, and Corrective Actions](#)

[Electronic Resources](#)

[Freedom of Expression](#)

[Campus Guidelines](#)

[Nondiscrimination](#)

[Slurs, A Form of Discrimination](#)

[Sexual Harassment Related to Students](#)

[Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying](#)

[Student Use and Possession of Tobacco and Nicotine Products](#)

[Use of Tobacco and Nicotine Products and Delivery Services](#)

FIREARMS/WEAPONS

[Possession of Weapons by Students](#)

BUILDING RULES AND REGULATIONS

[Student Discipline](#)

[Student Dress](#)

HARASSMENT/BULLYING

The district is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students, employees, parents/legal guardians, volunteers and patrons, that is free from harassment, intimidation or bullying.

[Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying](#)

Sexual Harassment, Student to Staff Sexual Harassment,

Student to Student Sexual Harassment

[Sexual Harassment Related to Students](#)

Racial Harassment

[Slurs, A Form of Discrimination](#)

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

[Student Discipline](#)

[Classroom Management, Discipline, and Corrective Actions](#)

QUALIFIED DISABLED STUDENTS

[Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students](#)

[Education of Students with Disabilities Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#)

[Student Discipline](#)

STUDENTS AND TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES

[Students and Telecommunication Devices](#)

THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

[Student Records \(Policy\)](#)

[Student Records \(PR\)](#)

For information from the Department of Education, you may call 1-800-872-5327 (voice). Individuals who use TDD may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

TRANSPORTATION AND BUS RULES

The following rules and regulations apply to all students using school district transportation to and from school and school-sponsored activities and events.

1. Respect the bus driver, other students, property, and yourself.
2. Obey the bus driver's instructions and directions.
3. Keep hands, feet, and body off of other people's bodies, and their property.
4. Use kind and appropriate language. Avoid words or gestures that offend others, including profanity, teasing, name-calling, etc.
5. Eating or drinking is not allowed on the bus.
6. Before deboarding, clear your seat of belongings and/or any trash or debris.
7. Cell phones should not be used to record, take a video, or take a picture of anyone or anything inside the bus.
8. Be at your designated stop 5 minutes prior to pick-up.
9. Only get off bus at your designated stop.
10. Inform the driver of any conflict as soon as it is safe to do so. Do not participate in conflict.
11. Make sure your response is appropriate to the circumstance, do not overreact.
12. Listen to others, be tolerant, and be fair.

13. Stay seated on the bus at all times, with feet on the floor, and facing body forward. Do not switch seats, stand up, or walk while the bus is in motion. Once seated, stay seated.

14. Keep seatbelt on and fastened if/when sitting in a seat with seatbelts.

15. Speak in a classroom level voice. Do not yell or scream.

16. Do not bring items onto the bus that would interfere with student and driver safety - animals, toys, insects, breakable containers, chemicals, explosives, flammables, balloons, skateboards, etc.

Bethel School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Compliance / Gender-Inclusive Schools Coordinator, Debbie Carlman, dcarlman@bethelsd.org, 253.800.2019; Title IX Coordinator, Bryan Streleski, bstreleski@bethelsd.org, 253.800.4302; and 504 Coordinator, Melissa Munson-Merritt, mmunsonmer@bethelsd.org, 253.800.2301. All individuals may be reached at this address: 516 176th Street East, Spanaway, WA 98387.

Title IX inquiries may also be directed toward the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR): <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>. Information about the nondiscrimination and sex-based discrimination policies and grievance procedures, and how to report a concern or complaint: bethelsd.org.

El Distrito Escolar de Bethel no discrimina en sus programas o actividades por motivos de sexo, raza, credo, religión, color, nacionalidad, edad, condición de veterano de guerra o grado militar, orientación sexual, expresión de género o identidad, discapacidad o por el uso de perro guía entrenado o animal de servicio; además ofrece igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y a otros grupos de jóvenes especificados. Los siguientes empleados han sido designados para atender consultas y quejas de supuesta discriminación: Cumplimiento de los Derechos Civiles/Coordinadora Escolar de Inclusión de Género, Debbie Carlman, dcarlman@bethelsd.org, 253.800.2019; Coordinador del Título IX, Bryan Streleski, bstreleski@bethelsd.org, 253.800.4302 y Coordinadora 504, Melissa Munson-Merritt, mmunsonmer@bethelsd.org, 253.800.2301. Todas las personas pueden ser localizadas en esta dirección 516 176th Street East, Spanaway, WA 98387.

Las consultas sobre el Título IX también pueden dirigirse a la Oficina de Derechos Civiles (OCR) del Departamento de Educación de EE.UU.: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>. Para más información sobre las políticas de no discriminación y discriminación por razón de sexo; los procedimientos de reclamación y sobre cómo comunicar una preocupación o queja visite: www.bethelsd.org.

PLEASE NOTE:

The summary statements contained in this publication are for information only and are not to be construed as replacing established school district policies and procedures. A copy of this document and official district policies and procedures may be found online at www.bethelsd.org.

Revised: 3/21/25