



## **Washoe County School District**

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## **WCSD School Climate Efforts—Staff and Student Safety**

The District is committed to creating learning environments that are safe, welcoming and foster a sense of belongingness for all students and staff (Strategic Plan Goal 5, Objective 5.1). The District has experienced a rise in student behavior in recent years, and also has evidence of disproportionality in traditional disciplinary practices. A variety of efforts are in place to strengthen school climate, and to guide school efforts with respect to disciplinary practice (See the WCSD Behavior Manual).

The District provides multiple levels of behavioral supports to all schools. Several training days throughout the year are dedicated to reviewing and learning from data and establishing objectives to increase safety for students and staff, to minimize exclusionary discipline practices, and to increase student achievement.

Additionally, to best ensure the safety of students and staff, several practices are in place:

- Student referrals to our Behavior Management Team for classroom level behavior support.
- School-based Threat Inquiry/Assessment process typically conducted by a school team led by a School Psychologists (threats of violence/harm directed toward staff and/or other students)
- Student referrals to our District Intervention Assistance Team. This is a cross-agency team that views a student referral through a broader familial/community lens to ensure all needs are being met.
- Student referrals to our Behavior Hearing process. These referrals are for students who have committed major offenses that could leave to Interim Alternative Educational Placements.
- Student referrals to our Student Attendance Review Board.
- Student transition processes in partnership with County Juvenile Services (probation transitions), State Department of Child and Family Services (Parole transitions), and County Human Services Agency (Foster Care transitions).

The District is also engaged in many professional development efforts to build the capacity within schools to best serve students:

- Equity and Culturally Responsive Practices
- Social Emotional Learning
- Behavior Management
- Restorative Practices
- Family Engagement
- Trauma-Sensitive Practices

Finally, the District is working in partnership with the Washoe Educational Association (WEA) to work with teachers from across the school district on student behavior and school safety. Toward this end, District administration is regularly meeting with school staff. It has also launched a School Climate-Student Behavior Task Force that is comprised of parents, teachers, site-based administrators, and central office administrators.