

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER,
STATE OF COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. _____**

**The Resolution Towards Ending Suspensions and
Expulsions of Young Learners**

WHEREAS, Denver Public Schools has been a national leader in discipline reform efforts focusing on the elimination of racial disparities in discipline; elimination of the school-to-prison pipeline; and an emphasis on the use of restorative practices and other positive alternatives to suspension and expulsion;

WHEREAS, Denver Public Schools has seen remarkable progress, reducing our out-of-school suspension rate by over two-thirds and reducing expulsions by over 70% in the last ten years;

WHEREAS, for our youngest learners, we have reduced suspensions and expulsions dramatically, and that over the last years, the District expelled zero students in those primary grades;

WHEREAS, the District recognizes that this progress is a testament to the efforts of our teachers, leaders, and student service providers, who know their students best, support them, and promote the value of continuous exposure to education in a positive, nurturing environment;

WHEREAS, it is well-established that removal from school through discipline negatively impacts engagement and connection to school in the early years of a student's life. These earliest exposures to education are intended to develop students' perceptions and trust of school and teachers, and to instill fundamental social-emotional and academic skills that will become the foundation for success;

WHEREAS, unless students have strong social-emotional and academic foundations by third grade, they often require extensive remedial supports. In order to meet our Denver Plan goals, including increasing early literacy, increasing graduation rates, and closing opportunity gaps, we must ensure that the use of suspension is rare and that expulsion is eliminated;

WHEREAS, out of school suspensions should occur only in narrow circumstances where there are acts of violence or significant threats to the well-being of students or staff, or issues that rise to this standard. This limitation applies to any removal from school, whether documented as a suspension or not;

WHEREAS, the Board believes it is essential to provide developmentally appropriate

strategies for preventing future behavior incidents, restoring relationships, and addressing the student's ongoing social, emotional and academic needs. Development of behavior plans should involve families, teachers, leaders, and other support staff to provide support to students and and prepare them for successful educational experiences; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District shall pursue an amendment to Board Policy and Regulation intended to dramatically reduce the use of suspension and eliminate expulsion for ECE through third-grade students, except in cases required by law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District shall ensure that family, educator, and community voice is captured in a transparent process over the next two months to elicit feedback on the implementation of such a proposed amendment, to include consideration of the supports necessary for teachers and building leaders to meaningfully support student development and school safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District shall consider the resources available to support the whole child, with particular attention to empowering educators with tools and resources to engage young learners and improve behavior outcomes through proactive supports, interventions, and alternatives to suspension and expulsion.

Anne Rowe, President

Happy Haynes, Secretary