

School Climate & School Discipline: A Guidance Package

Safe and Supportive School Climates | Appropriate Consequences for Students | Fair and Equitable Discipline

In implementing school discipline policies, successful schools strive to achieve fairness and equity for all students.

- Consult the ***Dear Colleague Letter*** for guidance on schools' legal obligations under federal law to administer student discipline without discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

Research shows that creating a positive school climate can improve academics and enhance safety in the school and community.

- Reference the ***Guiding Principles***, which draw on emerging research and best practices, to inform efforts to improve school climate and discipline policies.

There are multiple ways to accomplish the goal of creating safe, supportive environments where all students can engage in learning.

- Use the ***Directory of Federal School Climate and Discipline Resources*** to learn about available Federal PK–12 school climate and discipline resources.

School discipline laws and regulations vary state to state.

- Use the ***Compendium of School Discipline Laws and Regulations*** to identify the laws and regulations related to school discipline in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, and compare laws across states and jurisdictions.

This guidance package is part of a joint effort between the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice to help states, districts, and schools enhance school climate and improve school discipline practice (see ***Overview of the Supportive School Discipline Initiative***).



The Guidance Package includes:

- A Dear Colleague Letter on Civil Rights and Discipline
- Guiding Principles for Improving Climate and Discipline
- A Directory of Federal School Climate and Discipline Resources
- A Compendium of School Discipline Laws and Regulations
- An Overview of the Supportive School Discipline Initiative

Language Assistance Available

You may request language assistance services for *School Climate & School Discipline: A Guidance Package*:

Phone: 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327)

Press **option 3** for assistance in any language, including español, 中文: 繁體版, Việt-ngữ, 한국어, Tagalog, and Русский.

TTY/ASCII: 1-800-877-8339

E-Mail: ed.language.assistance@ed.gov



Scan the QR code and view resource documents at:
<http://www.ed.gov/school-discipline/>

E-mail questions and comments to:
schooldiscipline@ed.gov