

YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS

We the children and youth of King County, Washington, as contributors to an inclusive and just human society, and to secure hope and a future based in equity, respect, and combined power for all, establish these youth bill of rights.

I. BASIC NEEDS & WELLBEING – *We the children and youth of King County, assert that every young individual has the right to the fulfillment of basic human needs.*

Every young individual has access to fresh, nutritious, and affordable food.
Every young individual is housed in a safe home environment, and able to live without risk of harm or unwilling displacement.
Every young individual experiences sustainable living including access to outdoor spaces and unpolluted air.
Every young individual has access to clean drinking water.

III. EDUCATION & LEARNING – *We the children and youth of King County uphold education as a pathway to progress, economic stability, and development.*

Every young individual receives a quality education in a supportive learning environment where they feel emotionally, mentally, and physically able.
Every young individual receives unbiased education that expands their knowledge, trade, and skills, and that addresses individual learning needs.
Every young individual is supported by their community in building their educational goals.
Every young individual receives training that prepares them for the next stages of life.

V. SAFETY & SECURITY – *We the children and youth of King County assert that all young people should feel safe and protected at home, at school, and in their communities.*

Every young individual has safe communities that are free from violence.
Every young individual has a learning environment that is physically and emotionally safe, free from violence, judgement, and inequity.
Every young individual has safe spaces shielded from gun violence, and resources if they are impacted by gun violence.
Every young individual safely travels routes, roads, and sidewalks within their communities.

VII. ENVIRONMENT – *We the children and youth of King County recognize the urgent need to protect our planet for future generations.*

Every young individual engages in solutions to climate change and global warming.
Every young individual enjoys the natural environment and keeps it preserved for future generations.
Every young individual breathes clear air void of carbon emissions and pollution.
Every young individual enjoys clean streets, sidewalks, and highways free of garbage and dangerous waste.

IX. YOUTH VOICE – *We the children and youth of King County uphold the right of youth to actively participate in civic life and contribute to decision-making processes that shape their future and present communities.*

Every young individual expresses themselves, voices their opinions, beliefs, and concerns without fear of censorship or repression.
Every young individual has a voice in local government, boards, and commissions.
Every young individual shares their thoughts and concerns about their school or learning environment and is heard.

II. HEALTH – *We the children and youth of King County declare the care of young peoples' mental, emotional, and physical health is a fundamental human right.*

Every young individual has access to mental health support, mental health resources, and mental health services that are affordable, responsive, and address their unique challenges.
Every young individual has respect, autonomy, and meaningful involvement in decisions about their body.
Every young individual has resources, services, and aid to combat drug and alcohol addiction.
Every young individual has affordable and easily accessible health care.
Every young individual has the power to make decisions about their reproductive health.

IV. EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE – *We the children and youth of King County believe that equity and social justice are essential for a better world, and by upholding these rights, we create a brighter future for all.*

Every young individual who experiences any form of discrimination is validated and taken seriously.
Every young individual has resources that address language barriers, and/or situations that limit their ability to communicate or understand circumstances.

VI. COMMUNITY & BELONGING – *We the children and youth of King County champion the importance of a sense of community and belonging, and creating nurturing spaces for connection, contribution, and collaboration.*

Every young individual has community supports and uplifting environments to rely on in times of need.
Every young individual is surrounded by supportive communities and systems that protect and sustain their identities.
Every young individual has spaces where they safely gather, celebrate, and collaborate with other youth.
Every young individual is protected from bullying in any form and feels safe and heard when bullying is reported.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION – *We the children and youth of King County maintain that public and private transportation is necessary for young people to attend school, build community, and explore the world around them.*

Every young individual has adequate access to affordable public transportation.
Every young individual walks well-maintained and accessible sidewalks.
Every young individual has options for an affordable personal mode of transportation and able to travel when and where they need to in a timely manner.

X. RECREATION & SPORTS – *We the children and youth of King County acknowledge the role recreation and sports play in the development of young people, having a positive impact on individual growth, community growth, and self-esteem.*

Every young individual engages with the natural environment.
Every young individual has equitable access to various affordable recreational activities and sports.