

# Ending school-year evictions

**Presentation to Seattle City Council Sustainability and Renters Rights Committee**

**Chair: Kshama Sawant**

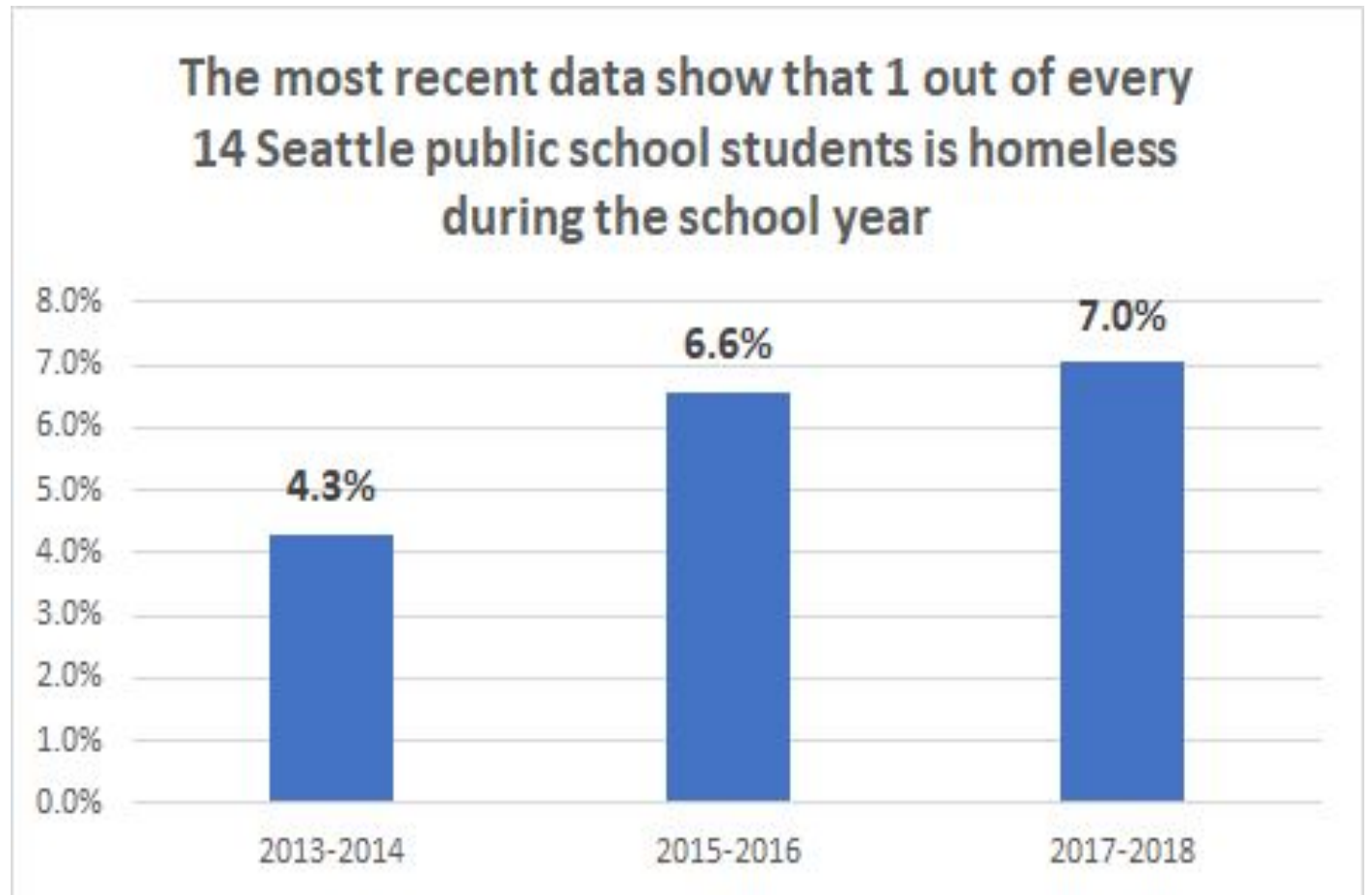
**May 12, 2021**



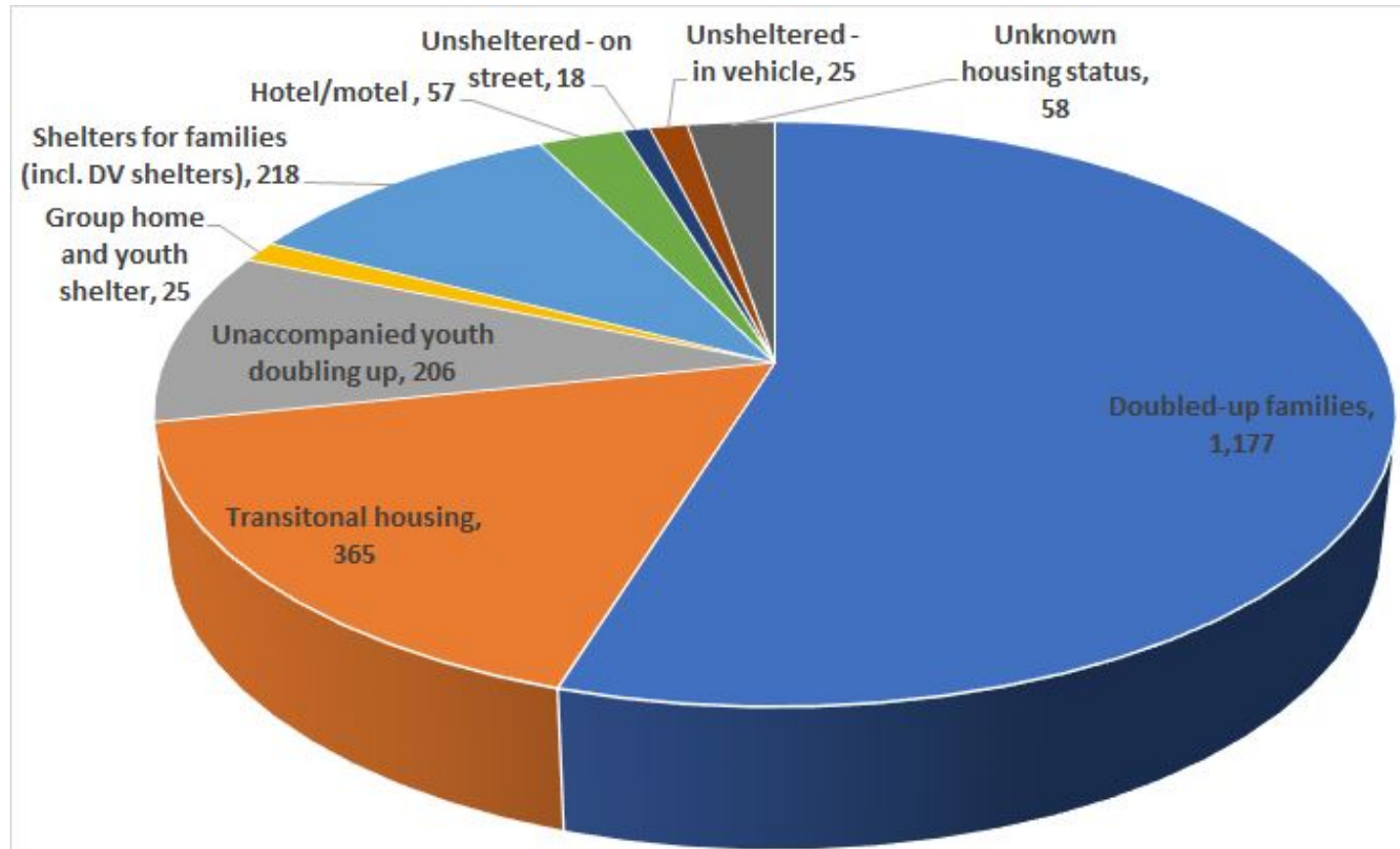
SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL | DISTRICT 3

**COUNCILMEMBER KSHAMA SAWANT**

Seattle public school homelessness is on the rise.



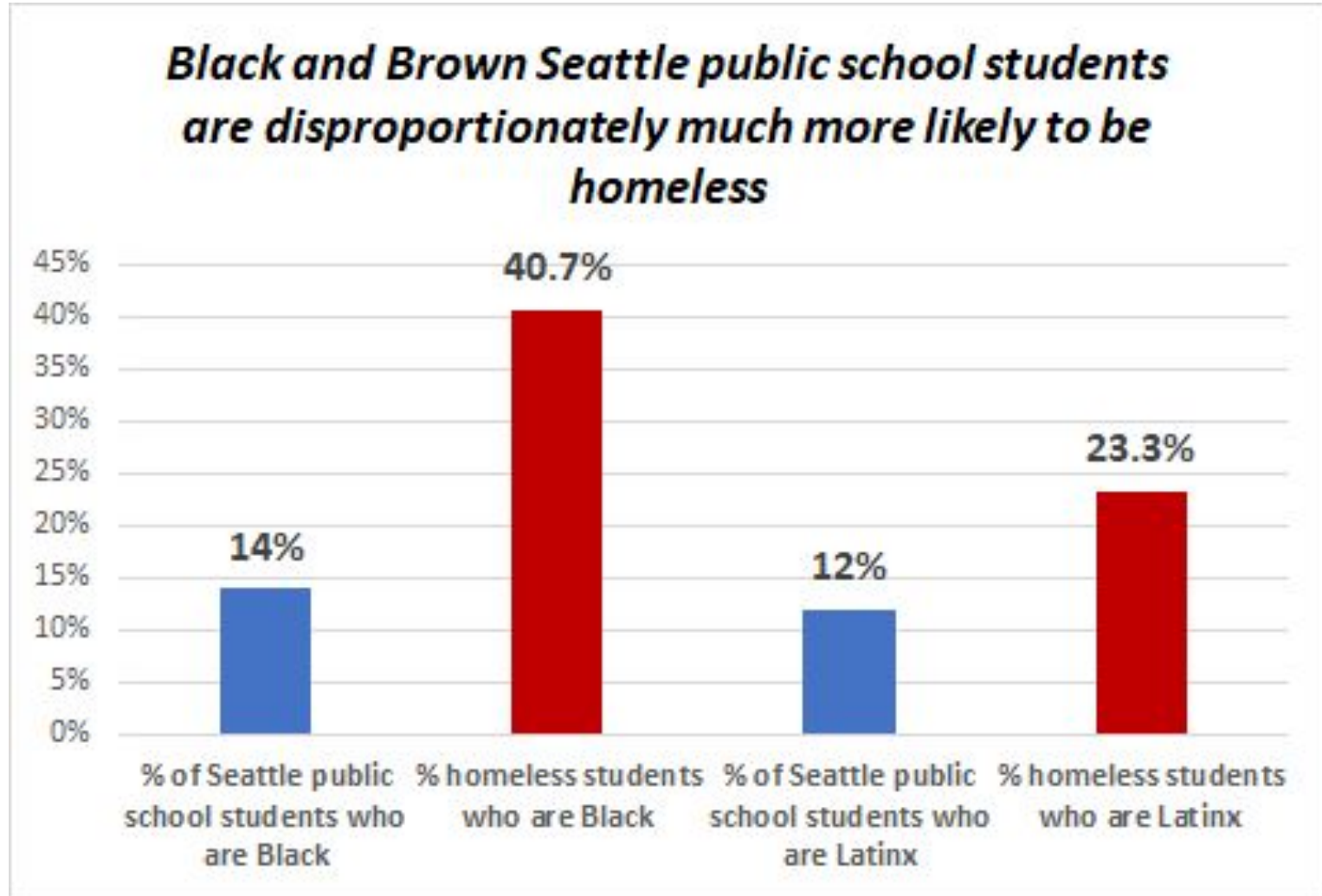
Right now,  
Seattle public  
school  
students are  
struggling  
with  
homelessness  
in a variety of  
settings.



Data as of 3/15/2021:

[https://www.seattleschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_543/File/District/Departments/School%20Board/Friday%20Memos/2020-21/FridayMemo\\_20210319\\_Corrected.pdf](https://www.seattleschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_543/File/District/Departments/School%20Board/Friday%20Memos/2020-21/FridayMemo_20210319_Corrected.pdf)

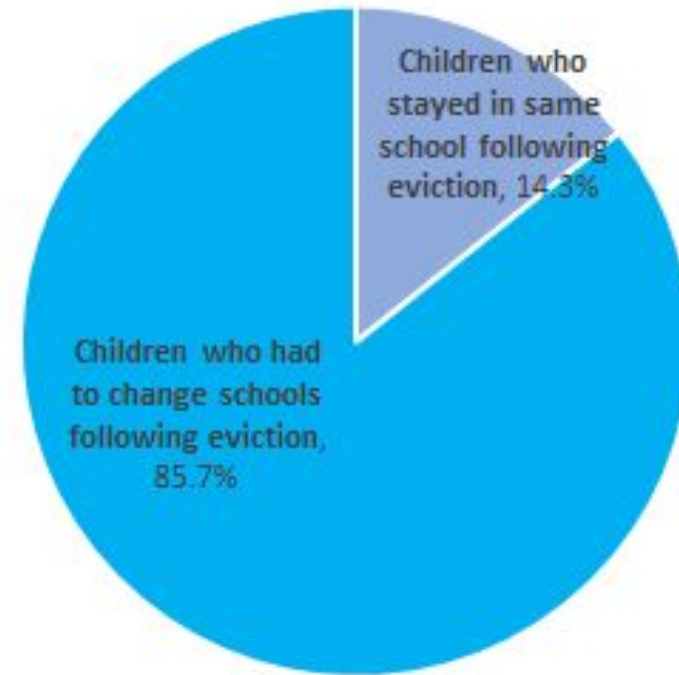
Stopping evictions of school-aged families is a Black Lives Matter and racial justice issue.



sources: OSPI data accessible at <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/access-opportunity-education/homeless-education/homeless-student-data-grant-recipients>  
[https://www.seattleschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=627&pageId=25571114#Graph\\_2](https://www.seattleschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=627&pageId=25571114#Graph_2)

**When households are evicted, children are forced out of their schools and away from friends and trusted educators and school support staff.**

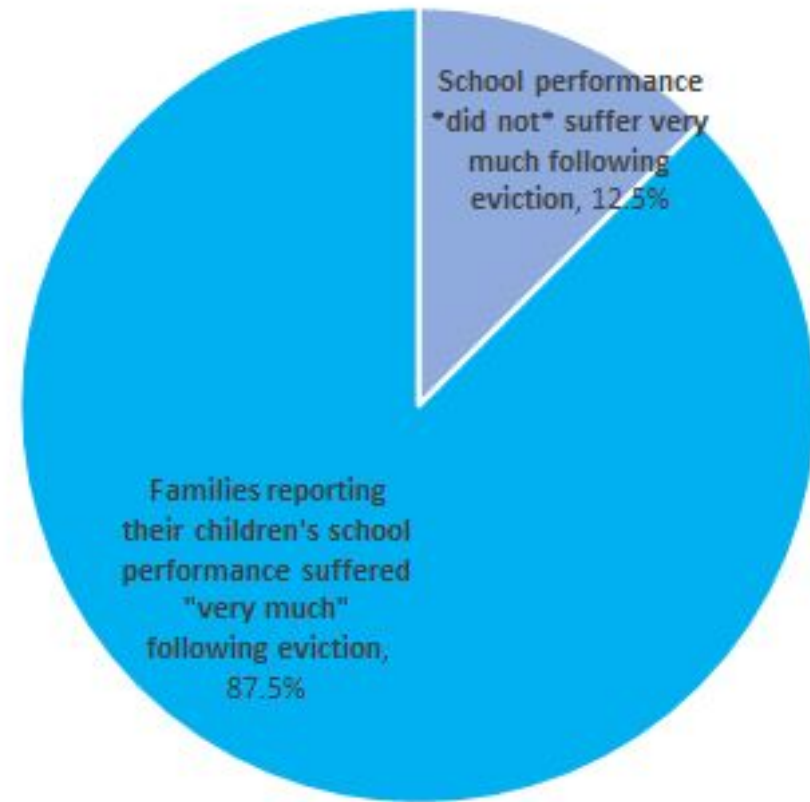
**The vast majority of children in evicted Seattle households had to change schools as a result**



[http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SeattleWomensCommission/LosingHome\\_9-18-18.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SeattleWomensCommission/LosingHome_9-18-18.pdf)

**Students' performance in school suffers when their families are evicted.**

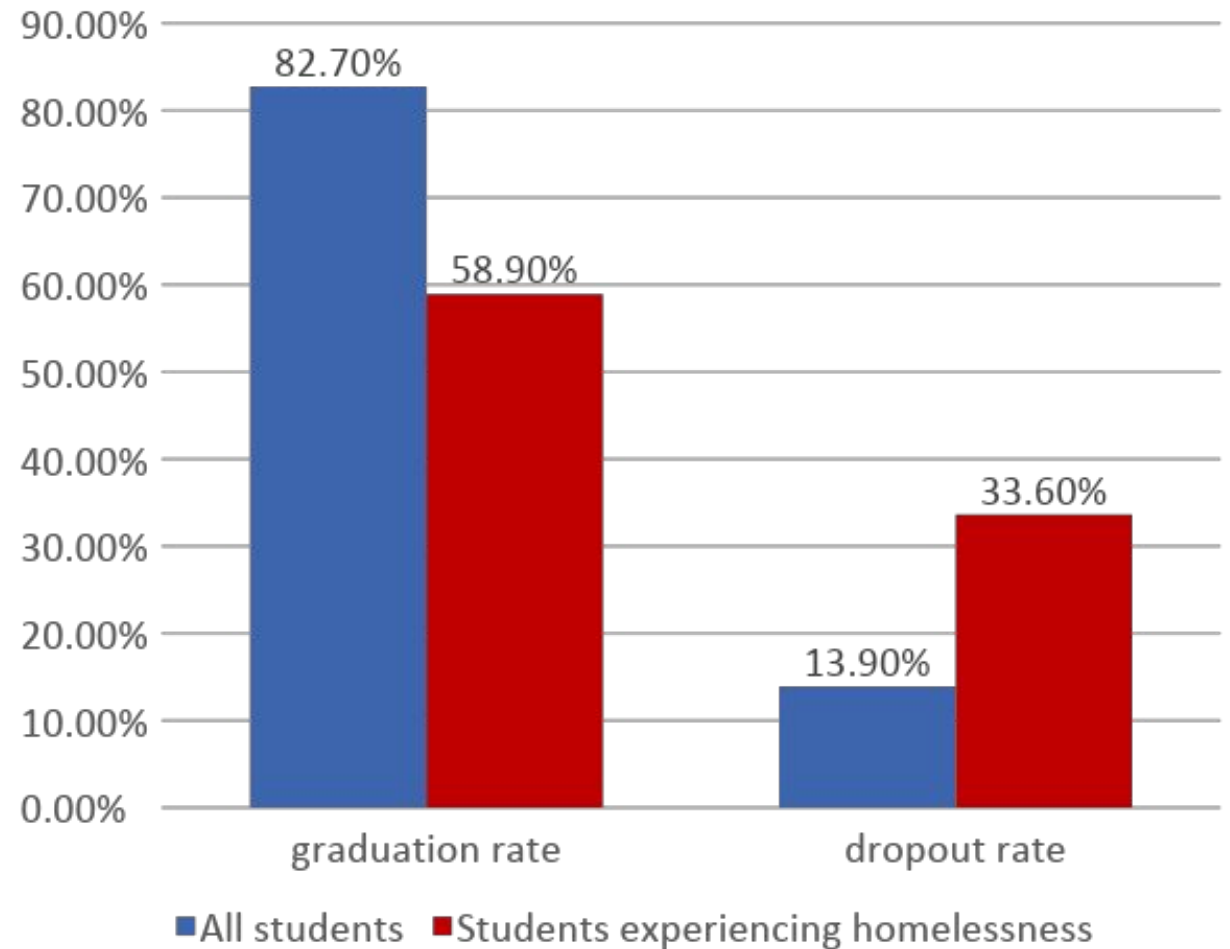
*Nearly 9 out of 10 families reported that student school performance suffered due to eviction*



[http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SeattleWomensCommission/LosingHome\\_9-18-18.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SeattleWomensCommission/LosingHome_9-18-18.pdf)

Homeless students have much lower graduation rates and much higher school dropout rates.

*Washington state public school students experiencing homelessness are much more likely to not graduate, and are three times more likely to drop out of school*



Statewide data - graduation rate, class of 2017, 5-year adjusted cohort

<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/homeless/pubdocs/2019-01-update-homeless-students-data.pdf>



# Academic research agrees that evictions harm student learning and development.

“Children experiencing residential instability demonstrate worse academic and social outcomes than their residentially-stable peers, such as lower vocabulary skills, problem behaviors, grade retention, increased high school drop-out rates, and lower adult educational attainment.”<sup>1</sup>

“Numerous studies have shown negative consequences of evicting children and adolescents which include, but not limited to, decreased academic performance, delayed literacy skills, increased dropout rates, health issues and violent behaviours”<sup>2</sup>

“In grouping the children who have changed schools frequently into four income categories, we found that within each category, these children are more likely to be below grade level in reading and math than those who have never changed schools”<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The Negative Effects of Instability on Child Development*, Urban Institutes, 2013

<sup>2</sup> *Systematic review of psychosocial factors associated with evictions*, Healthcare and Socialcare in the Community, 2018

<sup>3</sup> *Elementary School Children: Many Change Schools Frequently, Harming Their Education*, U.S. Government Accountability Office, 1994



**Research also shows that the turnover of school staff damages student learning.**

“Students who lose their teacher during the school year have significantly lower test score gains (on average  $-7.5$  percent of a standard deviation unit) than those students whose teachers stay”<sup>1</sup>

“The combined effects of leadership and teacher turnover adversely affected the very institutional resources (capacity, trust, ties, and beliefs) that researchers have shown to be important for effective institutional response”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The Consequences of Leaving School Early: The Effects of Within-Year and End-of-Year Teacher Turnover*, Education Finance and Policy, 2020

<sup>2</sup> *Putting School Reform in Its Place: Social Geography, Organizational Social Capital, and School Performance*, The American Educational Research Journal, 2012

**CB 120046** - relating to termination of residential rental tenancies; providing a defense to certain evictions of children, their families, and educators during the school year

## Who is Protected?

- All children and students up through 12th grade
- Their families
- All school employees including preschools, elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools



**CB 120046** - relating to termination of residential rental tenancies; providing a defense to certain evictions of children, their families, and educators during the school year

## **When are Schoolchildren Evictions Banned?**

- During the academic school year of Seattle Public Schools
- For example, the current school year is September 4, 2020 - June 18, 2021



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## Exceptions

Evictions are not banned when other laws require them, including:

- The building is condemned
- The landlord is required by law to reduce the number of occupants
- There is serious illegal and dangerous activity in the unit regulated Chapter 7.43 RCW or RCW 59.12.030(5)

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## Precedents

### Seattle Ordinance 126041

- Bans “Winter Evictions” between December 1 and March 1
- Passed by the Seattle City Council on February 10, 2020

### San Francisco Rent Ordinance Section 37.9(j)

- Amended in 2016 to protect Children, Students, and Educators from eviction during the school year.
- Limited to certain no-fault evictions such as redevelopment

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## **Community Support**

- Seattle School Board Director Zachary DeWolf.
- Seattle Education Association passed a resolution with support from overwhelming majority.
- CM Sawant's office will be sharing a community petition.

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## Next Steps

- May 25 Sustainability and Renter Rights Committee Meeting - intended votes
- Jeff Simms from Council Central Staff is preparing a memo for the May 25 Committee Meeting.
- Committee Members should send Jeff Simms intended amendments by Friday May 14, so they can be revised and reviewed by the CAO next week, and published by Friday May 21.



Questions?