

Washington County School District Statement on Breastfeeding

We want to clarify some misunderstandings regarding breastfeeding in public buildings or spaces and how that differs from breastfeeding in public schools. We want to be clear that Washington County School District fully supports nursing mothers.

By law, public school buildings are considered non-public, public spaces. This means that while a school building is public, it is not a place of public accommodation; meaning school buildings are not open to serve the general public.

The primary purpose of public schools is to provide educational services to the children in our community, and our schools provide a safe, controlled-access environment in which children come to learn.

By comparison, the Washington County School District offices are both a public building and a place of public accommodation, and are treated differently under the law than our elementary schools and other school buildings.

The District does offer and provide nursing accommodation for employees in all of our buildings and schools, and as breastfeeding mothers are invited into our schools, we will provide nursing accommodations for them as well, even though it is not required by law.

Steven Dunham
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Washington County School District