

Washington State University

College of Education

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Will defend the dissertation on

Date: November 1, 2023

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Vancouver Campus – VUB 311

Zoom available upon request to gradstudies@wsu.edu

Faculty, students and the general public are encouraged to attend

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES ON SAFETY IN THE COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL

Chair: Katherine Rodela

Recent tragic acts of violence in schools and policy decisions made at local, state, and national levels related to issues of school safety have resulted in the need for schools and districts to consider approaches to safety that do not rely solely on physical safety through measures such as access controls and security personnel like armed law enforcement officers who are permanently stationed in schools. A better understanding of students' perceptions and beliefs about their safety at school can assist school and district leaders in the design of specific approaches for creating a safer school environment. Using a descriptive qualitative method and semi-structured interviews with students, this research aims to investigate students' overall perceptions regarding school safety in Puget Sound School District high schools. This study also aims to identify the specific characteristics of schools that students at Puget Sound School District high schools identify as contributing to or detracting from school safety. To undertake this analysis, this research proposes an integrative theoretical model that addresses school safety through a three-part lens of physical safety, psychological safety, and intellectual safety.