To make sure all our families have access to the latest 2020-21 updates and resources, we have created web pages in each of our community’s top six languages: Amharic, Chinese, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

Dear SPS Community,

The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority as we plan for a return to school buildings on March 1 for PreK-1 students and students being served in Special Education Intensive Service Pathways.

As guidance from the state and public health officials has changed, we have adjusted. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been hosting meal sites, serving thousands of meals a day, and hosting childcare in over 40 of our schools. Our strong health protocols have protected staff and students, and schools aren’t the super spreader spaces we once were worried they might be. While there have been COVID-19 cases, we have not had widespread transmission. Cases have been minimal and mitigated, which is why we are confident in our plans for returning to school buildings.

With the vaccine on the horizon, it gives us even more hope. We will continue to listen and respond to what our community needs, and advocate alongside you. That includes making vaccines for educators and staff a priority.

Earlier this month, I asked Governor Inslee and our state public health officials to prioritize vaccinations for public educators and critical support staff to send a strong message of the state’s commitment to public education and our educators.

I am happy to share that on Monday the Department of Health issued a revised vaccine distribution schedule. This means all school employees are eligible in Phase 1B (Tiers 1-4) or earlier.

I am also excited to announce that we are partnering with Swedish Medical Group and Seattle University to provide access to the vaccine for SPS employees following this new
We’ll be sharing more information with staff and families in the coming days. Thank you to Swedish Medical Group and Seattle University for this critical partnership and support of our staff and community.

Thank you,

Superintendent Denise Juneau

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**Virtual Town Hall Meetings**

**Return to In-Person Updates**

**Vaccines for SPS Educators and Staff**

SPS is partnering with Swedish Medical Group and Seattle University to provide SPS employees access to the COVID-19 vaccine series in compliance with the Washington Department of Health. Swedish has opened vaccine appointments to SPS staff in Phases 1A (tiers 1 & 2) and 1B (tier 1). Most SPS staff will be eligible for vaccination as part of Phase 1B tiers 1-4.

**Intent to Return to In-Person Survey Results**

The family and staff intent to return survey responses are a critical step for SPS to plan for in-person instruction. School principals and staff are now reaching out to families of PreK-1 students and students enrolled in Special Education Intensive Service Pathways to ensure 100% of these families’ plans are accounted for.

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**Survey Results**

**Vaccines for Staff**

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**Return to In-Person Frequently Asked Questions**

As we plan for a return to school buildings for PreK-1 students and students enrolled in Special Education Intensive Service Pathways, we are regularly updating our Return to In-Person FAQ. Below are the top three questions from families this week. You can view these answers and more on our website.

1. **My child is one of the students identified as being able to return beginning March 1. Will my child’s teacher change in the in-person or remote model?** Staffing consistency is a priority, but we are working to match the number of students who want to return in-person with the number of staff who can return to teach in-person.

2. **Will after school programs or additional child care be offered for this group of students?** We are working to balance space availability and ensure health and
safety protocols can be met. We have dedicated child care at some school sites that will be maintained. We will work to bring back additional child care operations in our buildings. An increase will need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for each school building and provider.

3. **What is the plan if there is a positive case(s) in my child's school or classroom?** We are working to create classroom settings that limit transmission as much as possible. If a positive case does occur in a school, we will determine the range of potential contact, and if a building or classroom closure is necessary.

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**Return to In-Person FAQ**

**Return to In-Person Bargaining Updates**

In December, the School Board passed a resolution for a phased re-entry for in-person services for students in preschool, kindergarten, and 1st grade and students enrolled in Special Education Intensive Service Pathways. The current Seattle Public Schools/Seattle Education Association joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) requires that we negotiate with the Seattle Education Association any changes to the current remote instructional model. SEA and SPS began that process this month, and the district will provide bargaining updates on our website.

**Bargaining Updates**

**Engagement Opportunities**

**Special Education Community Forums**

The Special Education Department, in partnership with families, facilitators, and community-based organizations, will host three more engagement sessions with families over the next few weeks. The purpose of these sessions is to summarize the information we received at our first listening sessions in late August, share updates on our work so far this year, listen to feedback from families, and answer questions. Please note that the BIPOC Family & Community Forum was rescheduled for Feb. 2.

**Upcoming Forum Dates**

**Technology Tips**

**How-To Videos and Answers to Your Technology Questions**

We've put together technology resources for families and students. We have translated videos to support logging in to Clever, logging in to SeeSaw, Microsoft Teams for Students, setting up an SPS iPad and laptop, and setting up parent Schoology accounts.

**Technology Resource Centers**

Our Technology Resource Centers are open to support families and students with remote learning software, devices, and general technology information.
Resources For Families

2021-22 Kindergarten and New Student Enrollment

If your child will be five by Aug. 31, 2021, it is time to get ready to enroll for kindergarten. Registration for 2021-22 for students new to Seattle Public Schools began on Jan. 4.

Kindergarten and New Student Enrollment

Open Enrollment for school choice starts Feb. 1 – 19. Choice applications will be accepted after this date through May 31 but will be considered "late" and will no longer qualify for sibling or priority tiebreakers. School choice applications will be available online Feb.1.

Open Enrollment for School Choice

Looking to learn more about a school before you enroll your student? Check out our list of virtual open houses to get to know our schools firsthand!

School Virtual Open Houses

Student Meal Distribution

SPS is offering free student meals at 40 school locations and eight bus routes. Meal sites are open Monday-Friday from 11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

High School Seniors Apply for Seattle Promise Free College Tuition by Feb. 1

More than 1,000 high school seniors have applied for Seattle Promise already. Don't miss out on two years of free tuition at Seattle Colleges. The scholarship is available to all SPS graduates regardless of GPA, income, ability, or country of birth. Apply by Feb. 1. Questions? Contact the specialist for your high school.

Seattle Promise

Seattle Promise and Intiman Theater Info Session

Seattle Promise and Intiman Theatre will host a joint virtual info session for high school students on Wednesday, Jan. 27. Intiman Theatre and Seattle Central College are now offering a two-year Associate of Arts degree with an emphasis in Technical Theatre for Social Justice. Graduates of the program will have the skills to begin working backstage in theatre, TV, and film right away! The program is eligible to be covered by Seattle Promise, and it starts this fall. Learn more about the program, backstage storytelling, and walk through the application in an info session with Intiman and Seattle Promise on Jan. 27, 4-5 p.m.

Seattle Promise and Intiman Theater Info Session

Secondary Report Cards

Secondary Report Cards will be made available for families to view in the Source at the end of the first semester. The first semester ends on Wednesday, Jan. 27 and report cards for students in grades 6-12 will be available shortly after that date. Families may request printed copies of report cards if they are unable to access remotely.

Secondary Report Cards

Elementary Progress Reports

Elementary Progress Reports are now available for families to view in the Source.
Inauguration Day 2021
Resources

On Jan. 20, 2021, President Joe Biden took the Oath of Office and was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States of America and Vice President Kamala Harris also made history as the first woman and the first person to identify as Black and as South Asian-American to serve in the role of Vice President. We have compiled resources for staff and families to discuss this important event through a non-partisan lens.

Inauguration Day 2021
Resources

Progress reports have been updated to ensure accessibility for all families and priority standards for grades K-5 have been translated in our top 5 languages. If you need this report printed, please contact your school or educator for support.

Elementary Progress Reports

Seattle Public Library Now Offers Free Curbside Printing

Seattle Public Library is now offering up to 10 free, black and white printed pages per person per day while Library buildings are closed. You can send your documents by email, web, or mobile device and pick up at one of the SPL curbside printing pickup locations.

Curbside Printing

City of Seattle Utility Discount Program

Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle City Light will keep services on and offer relief to utility customers during the COVID-19 Civil Emergency in Seattle. Residential and commercial customers can set up deferred payment plans if their financial stability has been jeopardized by COVID-19 by calling (206) 684-3000 or by sending an email 24/7. Additionally, income-eligible residential customers can self-certify to join the Utility Discount Program (UDP) and access heavily discounted utilities by simply signing a short form that attests to their household income, rather than having to provide income documentation of Seattle Utility Discount Program.

City of Seattle Utility Discount Program

Video: SPS Diversity Hiring Initiative Updates

Seattle Public Schools has made a commitment to hiring more educators and staff of color. The good news is that great progress is being made. And the better news, perhaps, is that the effort doesn't stop there. The work of hiring and retaining staff of color will forever be a top priority. Watch our new video to learn more.

Video: SPS Diversity Hiring Initiative Updates

Board Approves New High School Courses

On Wednesday, Jan. 13, the Seattle School Board approved new high school courses to be added to the district course catalog, including Black Studies U.S. History, LGBTQIA+ history and literature courses, Global Warming, and more. Thank you to the Seattle School Board for approving these new courses for students.

New High School Courses

Diversity Hiring Initiative

Office of African American Male Achievement Newsletter

The Office of African American Male Achievement (AAMA) works to ensure that the educational environment across the system supports the brilliance and excellence of Black boys and teens. This month, AAMA launched a quarterly newsletter to share the latest messages, events, and updates from the office, articles written by students, and
Seattle School Board

District IV School Board Director Appointment

On March 24, 2021, the Seattle School Board will appoint a school board director for District IV (4) representing Northwest and Central Seattle including Magnolia, Queen Anne, and southern neighborhoods in Ballard. Read more information about the appointment process, criteria, and timeline. Applications are due Jan. 29.

National School Board Recognition Month

January is School Board Recognition Month. In 2020, Seattle School Board directors attended 115 committee meetings, board special meetings, and regular board meetings in service of our students, families, and staff. Thank you to our board directors for their unwavering commitment to our students and their work to ensure students graduate prepared for college, career, and community participation. You are appreciated!

New Board Committees Selected

This month, the Seattle School Board president determined new board committees for 2021. View the new committee appointments.

New Board Committees

To learn more about the School Board and their work, public meetings, and upcoming policy initiatives, visit the board webpage.

Regular Board Meetings are currently being held remotely without an in-person location per the Governor’s Proclamation prohibiting public agencies from conducting meetings subject to the Open Public Meetings Act in-person to curtail the spread of COVID-19.

Board Calendar
Jan. 22: Special Education Community Forum: Amharic & Tigrinya Bilingual Family Community

Jan. 26: Special Education Community Forum: All Special Education Families

Jan. 27: End of 1st Semester

Jan. 27: End of 2nd Quarter

Jan. 27: Regular Board Meeting

Jan. 28: Day Between Semesters (no school)

Jan. 28: Northgate Elementary School Replacement Project

Feb. 1: Open Enrollment for School Choice

Feb. 1: Board Special Meeting: Audit & Finance Committee

Feb. 2: Board Special Meeting: Student Services, Curriculum & Instruction Committee

Feb. 2: Special Education Community Forum: BIPOC Family Community

Feb. 3: Board Special Meeting - Oversight Work Session: Human Resources; Work Session: HR Transformation

Feb. 4: Board Special Meeting: Operations Committee

View the District Calendar for details as well as more upcoming events and school year dates.

Resources

- The Source
- Schoology
- Family Resources
- School Year Dates
- District News and Events
- Departments and Services

Seattle Public Schools

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