

School Beat

The Seattle Public Schools Newsletter

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Dear SPS Community,

As we close out the 2020-21 school year strong, I am already looking to next school year and the return of all students to our school buildings. Providing in-person school is what we do best and what is best for our students. We expect most students and families will want to return to Fall 2021 in-person learning; and that is what we are planning for. In alignment with our strategic plan, Seattle Excellence, we continue to seek feedback from families and students furthest from educational justice on how they want to return for the upcoming school year. Our staff, school leaders, and school teams continue to work on what matters most to our students and families for the 2021-22 school year: welcoming and identity-safe schools, safe and healthy learning environments, and high-quality instruction. Throughout the summer, we will continue to engage our diverse stakeholders and provide information about the coming school year.

Based on state requirements from the governor and state superintendent, as well as the district's desire to best serve our students, SPS is planning to have five full days of in-person instruction at all 104 schools in the fall. We are committed to working with our community and staff to open schools and welcome back all students who wish to return to in-person learning. We will take what we have learned during the last year and build on what is working. We will continue to utilize our technology in our classrooms, as well as incorporate social emotional learning (SEL) into all subject areas. Our classrooms will promote engagement, joy, and wellness for all our students, especially those most impacted by the ongoing pandemic.

We also know that some families may not be ready to return to in-person learning. While we are taking all the necessary steps to ensure in-person learning is safe, welcoming, and engaging, we will also plan to pilot virtual options for a small population of students. We will continue to gather community feedback about what is most needed for a virtual program. Additional details and enrollment information will be shared by June 18.

It is my commitment to work in partnership with staff, students, families, and community to reimagine and implement a better education that is centered on the whole child – academic, social and emotional support, and excellence; a better education that empowers all our students to realize their dreams and build the future they deserve.

Sincerely,

Dr. Keisha Scarlett
Chief Academic Officer