

Superintendent Denise Juneau | School Board Members | SEA Leadership:

We understand the first day of school is on the calendar as Sept. 2. (Note: On Aug. 17, SPS changed the start date to Sept. 4 for grades 1-12; Sept. 8 for kindergarten.) Our council has listened to our students and families and on their behalf we make the following recommendations:

- Verify that 100% of students have adequate internet access and deployment of devices before the first day of school. Training for families and students on how to get on Microsoft Teams and Schoology is crucial and must be completed before starting classes;
- 100% coverage of district issued laptops for educators, paraeducators, instructional assistants and everyone else providing education and services to students;
- An attendance policy and and follow-up plan that includes learning supports and wellness checks.
- A grading policy that recognizes the needs and barriers of students receiving special education services and students furthest from educational justice that does not further exacerbate the opportunity gap and can potentially harm and punish students for issues beyond their control;
- Completion of MANDATORY Professional Development for educators including but not limited to:
 1. Anti-bias, Anti Blackness, Race, Equity and Inclusion training. School administrators and teachers must be trained on best practices in Family Engagement with **a rubric and evaluation**.
 2. Remote learning teaching best practices and internet etiquette.
 3. Mental Health support for students.

We need a clear *family engagement plan in remote learning*. Families need consistent and thoughtful engagement in support of the education of their children. The spring remote learning left many families out, disengaged and lost. As a community we cannot afford to continue to fail those that did not have access to education since the school closure back in March.

Without this supports in place, students furthest from educational justice will inevitably continue to fall behind. Seattle Council PTSA is very intentional in our advocacy for African American males, BIPOC, students receiving special education services, students with food and home insecurity, students in foster care, English Language Learners, immigrant students whether they are documented or not.

Our Council is here to not only make our recommendations, but also to support Seattle students having access to their education. Please let us know how we can help ensure all students are ready to learn on the first day of school.

In partnership,
Manuela Slye, President, Seattle Council PTSA