

Dear SPS families:

You are receiving this letter because you have a PreK-1 student or a student enrolled in a Special Education Intensive Service pathway. On Dec. 17, the SPS School Board directed staff to begin implementing plans for a phased increase of in-person instruction, beginning on March 1. We will be sharing updates and providing answers to frequently asked questions every other week, in addition to the School Beat family newsletter. Please look for these emails every other Thursday.

Learn how schools and classrooms have been prepared for a return to in-person learning:

<https://vimeo.com/505039365>

On Friday, Jan. 29, we will also be publishing a "Return to In-Person Plan" webpage that will answer many of your questions. It will be posted by 5 p.m. and can be accessed by visiting

www.seattleschools.org

Frequently Asked Questions for Returning In-Person

What progress has been made in bargaining with Seattle Education Association (SEA)? The Board's Dec. 17 approval authorized the district to begin bargaining in-person working conditions with SEA. Currently, only staff supporting select students receiving special education services are providing in-person learning. Negotiations are ongoing and build on our current MOU with SEA. The district has provided the SEA bargaining team with the work completed to prepare our schools and classrooms (i.e., HVAC improvements, classroom setups, and cleaning standards), health protocols, proposed student schedules, and recommended teacher-student ratios. The district's proposals will be added to the [Bargaining Webpage](#) tomorrow, Fri., Jan. 29.

Will all students come back on March 1? District staff are negotiating for students enrolled in Special Education Intensive Service Pathways to be the first large group to return for in-person learning beginning on March 1. This would be an increase of up to 2,000 students. Negotiations regarding PreK-1 in-person learning are also underway. We will share final plans by Feb. 22, 2021.

What are the student schedules? The district's current proposal for PreK-12th grade students enrolled in Special Education Intensive Service Pathways includes four full days of instruction (M/T/TH/F). Conversations continue about how to best support PreK-1 students and staff while adhering to safety protocols and prioritizing consistency of teachers for our youngest learners. Families and staff have shared how important it is for students to remain with their current teacher. To keep students' teachers the same and meet the 1:15 or less ratio, fewer days of in-person instruction can be offered. Earlier today we shared a proposal that keeps students in an A or B group with two days of in-person instruction for each group. This approach would support consistency in staffing, recognizing that some teachers and staff won't be able to provide in-person instruction. Preliminary data tells us that thirty percent of staff have asked for an accommodation.

These questions and more are posted to the [Intent to Return In-Person FAQ](#).

Office of Public Affairs