

Dear Colleagues:

You are receiving this letter because you either teach or support PreK-1st grade students and/or students enrolled in a Special Education Intensive Service Pathway or provide leadership and support to an elementary, K-8, or a school with Intensive Service Pathway classrooms. District staff were directed to begin implementing plans for a phased return to in-person instruction by the [School Board on December 17](#). Public Affairs will be sharing updates on behalf of multiple departments every other week in addition to the School Beat newsletter. Updates will address key areas of interest, including bargaining, health and safety, instruction, and general planning. Please look for these emails every other Thursday.

Bargaining Update

Negotiations are ongoing and build on our current MOU with SEA. The district has provided the SEA bargaining team with requested data and 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. 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. 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).

Negotiations regarding PreK-1 in-person learning are also underway. 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' teacher the same and meet the 1:15 or less ratio, fewer days of in-person instruction can be offered. Earlier today the district 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.

The district's proposals will be added to the [Bargaining Webpage](#) tomorrow, Fri., Jan. 29.

General Planning

- A "Return to In-Person Plan" webpage will be published on Jan. 29. It will be posted by 5 p.m. and can be accessed by visiting www.seattleschools.org. Please remember that the district is still bargaining in-person working conditions, so not all questions can be answered. Answers that are dependent on bargaining and are outside our current [SEA MOU](#) will be noted.

Health and Safety

- Learn how staff have been preparing schools and classrooms for a return to in-person learning: <https://vimeo.com/505039365>
- Look up your COVID-19 vaccine eligibility and a vaccination location [here](#). Most SPS staff will become eligible during Phase 1B, tiers 2 -4.

Office of Public Affairs