



News Release

From Seattle Public Schools

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Superintendent Releases Preliminary Capacity Management and Building Closure Recommendations

Public Process to be Held During December and January

Superintendent Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson today released preliminary recommendations on District-wide capacity management that include several building closures, a new elementary school, an expansion of an existing elementary school to a K-8 and a number of program relocations. Review and community input will take place during the next two months, with a School Board vote scheduled for January 29, 2009.

“We must ensure that every student has access to a quality education and is able to succeed academically,” Goodloe-Johnson said. “That is the central goal of our strategic plan, Excellence for All. Reaching that goal will require us to use our resources wisely. By focusing resources on a smaller number of buildings, we can strengthen programs and provide opportunities for students and their families.”

A number of recent studies have confirmed that Seattle Public Schools has more classroom space than other comparably sized districts. However, this excess capacity is not equally distributed around the city. There is an ongoing shortage of space for students in North Seattle, but more space than needed in the Central, South, Southeast, and West Seattle clusters.

“This preliminary recommendation is based on analysis of data using our guidelines and in-depth discussion of our foundational questions,” said Dr. Goodloe-Johnson. “As we considered each option, we kept returning to a fundamental question: “How does this recommendation strengthen programs across the city, and bring benefits to families?”

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Under the Superintendent's preliminary recommendations, six school buildings are recommended for closure, and an additional building will close temporarily but may reopen depending on enrollment; nine programs would relocate from one building to another; one new elementary school would be opened and one existing elementary school would expand to a K-8; and five programs would be discontinued and their students reassigned to new schools beginning in fall 2009.

The preliminary recommendations are intended to help Seattle Public Schools:

- **Increase academic achievement** by focusing resources on a smaller number of buildings to use resources wisely and build on what is working. The recommendations will provide a number of academic benefits for students and families, including:
 - A new cluster elementary school in Northeast Seattle and the expansion of Thornton Creek K-5 to a K-8 to respond to increased demand;
 - The possibility of a new elementary school in Queen Anne/Magnolia in fall 2010 if demand continues;
 - An arts-focused campus, with the co-location of Summit K-12 and Rainier Beach High School;
 - Enrichment opportunities with the co-location of NOVA and the Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center; and
 - Opportunities for program development and enrichment with the relocation of elementary APP from the Lowell Elementary Building to two school sites.
- **Meet students' needs** by balancing capacity with the number of students in neighborhoods throughout the city, to ensure that each student has access to a high quality educational program.
- **Prepare for future needs** by recommending for closure the buildings in the poorest condition and by planning program moves to match the city's demographic trends.
- **Respond to difficult economic times**, addressing a projected minimum \$24 million shortfall with a recommendation that will result in both one-time capital savings and ongoing operational savings.

Preliminary recommendations include:

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**Seattle Public Schools Preliminary Capacity Recommendations
November 25, 2008**

SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRELIMINARY CAPACITY RECOMMENDATIONS (11/25/08)		
NAME	BUILDING	PROGRAM
Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center (SBOC) at Old Hay building	CLOSE Old Hay building (may be a temporary closure depending on enrollment growth)	RELOCATE SBOC program to Meany building and co-locate with NOVA
AS #1 at Pinehurst building	CLOSE Pinehurst building	DISCONTINUE AS #1 program and reassign students to Thornton Creek K-8 at Jane Addams (or schools near where they live)
Thornton Creek Elementary at Decatur building	REPURPOSE Decatur building to be used as a new cluster elementary school	RELOCATE Thornton Creek program to Jane Addams Building and expand to K-8
Meany Middle School	REPURPOSE Meany building to co-locate NOVA program and SBOC	DISCONTINUE Meany program and reassign students to other schools based on where they live
NOVA program at Mann building	CLOSE Mann building	RELOCATE NOVA program to Meany building to co-locate with SBOC
TT Minor Elementary	CLOSE TT Minor building	RELOCATE TT Minor Montessori to Leschi DISCONTINUE TT Minor Elementary program and reassign students to Madrona and Leschi Elementaries
Leschi Elementary	REPURPOSE Leschi building to add K-3 Montessori from TT Minor	ADD K-3 Montessori from TT Minor Current Leschi K-5 students remain
Lowell Elementary	CLOSE Lowell building	RELOCATE elementary Accelerated Progress Program (APP) to Thurgood Marshall and Hawthorne Elementaries REASSIGN Special Education students based on the service delivery model
Thurgood Marshall Elementary	REPURPOSE Thurgood Marshall building to add portion of elementary APP	Assign approximately half of elementary APP RELOCATE Elementary Bilingual Orientation Center (EBOC) to Bailey Gatzert Building Current Thurgood Marshall K-5 students remain
Bailey Gatzert Elementary	REPURPOSE Bailey Gatzert building to add EBOC from Thurgood Marshall	ADD EBOC program from Thurgood Marshall Current Gatzert K-5 students remain
Hawthorne Elementary	REPURPOSE Hawthorne building to add a portion of elementary APP	Assign approximately half of elementary APP Current Hawthorne K-5 students remain

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SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRELIMINARY CAPACITY RECOMMENDATIONS (11/25/08), Continued		
NAME	BUILDING	PROGRAM
Van Asselt Elementary	CLOSE Van Asselt building	RELOCATE Van Asselt program to African American Academy building
African American Academy (AAA)	REPURPOSE AAA building to house Van Asselt Elementary program	DISCONTINUE AAA K-8 program. Reassign AAA K-5 students to Van Asselt or schools in their home cluster. Reassign AAA 6-8 students by where they live
Summit K-12 at Jane Addams building	REPURPOSE Jane Addams building as home to Thornton Creek K-8	RELOCATE Summit K-12 program to co-locate with Rainier Beach High School
Rainier Beach High School	REPURPOSE Rainier Beach building to co-locate Summit K-12 with Rainier Beach High	RELOCATE Summit K-12 program to Rainier Beach building to co-locate with Rainier Beach High School
Pathfinder K-8 at Genesee Hill building	CLOSE Genesee Hill building	RELOCATE Pathfinder K-8 program to Arbor Heights building
Arbor Heights Elementary	REPURPOSE Arbor Heights building to house Pathfinder K-8	DISCONTINUE Arbor Heights program. Reassign Arbor Heights students to other schools in the West Seattle South cluster

The preliminary recommendations can be summarized as follows:

SUMMARY OF SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRELIMINARY CAPACITY RECOMMENDATIONS (11/25/08)			
BUILDING CLOSURES	RELOCATED PROGRAMS	NEW PROGRAMS	DISCONTINUED PROGRAMS
Genesee Hill Lowell Mann TT Minor Pinehurst Van Asselt (Old Hay – may be temporary, depending on enrollment)	Lowell APP to Hawthorne and Thurgood Marshall NOVA to Meany Pathfinder K-8 to Arbor Heights SBOC to Meany Summit K-12 to Rainier Beach Thornton Creek to Addams TT Minor K-3 Montessori to Leschi Thurgood Marshall EBOC to Bailey Gatzert Van Asselt to AAA	New K-5 at Decatur Thornton Creek K-5 expands to K-8	African American Academy AS #1 Arbor Heights Meany TT Minor

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District staff began their evaluation of possible closures and program moves with three foundational questions to ensure that all students have access to a high quality education: 1) Do programs need to **move to other areas** of the district to improve access to these programs? 2) Do programs **need to be added in areas** of the district to improve access to these programs? and 3) How do closures or program moves relate to students' **academic needs** and strengthen the District's **fiscal health**? These foundational questions set the context for five guidelines that were evaluated for each building:

- **Geographic Need:** How can capacity be balanced across the district to ensure the appropriate number of seats in each geographic area?
- **Building Condition:** What is the quality and condition of the building (based on factors such as cost of maintenance, lot size, etc.)?
- **Cost per Pupil:** How do non-instructional costs per student (including both core staffing and administrative mitigation) compare with District averages?
- **Proximity:** Do other nearby schools serve the same grade levels?
- **Academic Performance:** Has the school made the expected annual academic progress under the federal No Child Left Behind law?

Families, staff and community members are encouraged to comment on the recommendations before the School Board takes action. Opportunities for public comment include:

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Seattle Public Schools Preliminary Capacity Recommendations Public Review Schedule

Date	Time	Type of Meeting	Location
December 3	6:00 p.m.	School Board meeting	John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence*
December 4	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Community workshop	John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence
December 6	9:30-11:30 a.m.	Community workshop	Filipino Community Center: 5740 MLK Jr Way
December 15	TBD	Public hearing	Locations TBD
December 16	TBD	Public hearing	Locations TBD
December 18	TBD	Public hearing	Locations TBD
January 7	6:00 p.m.	School Board meeting	John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence
January 21	6:00 p.m.	School Board meeting	John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence
January 22	6:00 p.m.	Public hearing	John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence
January 29	6:00 p.m.	School Board vote	John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence

*John Stanford Center for Education Excellence: 2445 3rd Avenue South

Updated information about the process and timeline will be provided via the district's Web site, www.seattleschools.org/area/capacity. An array of communication methods will be employed to notify staff, families and community members of recommendations and public comment opportunities.

Feedback related to capacity management is welcome. Comments can be emailed to capacity@seattleschools.org or mailed to School Board, PO Box 34165, MS 11-010, Seattle, WA, 98124-1165. The School Board office phone number is 206 252 0040.

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