



News Release

From Seattle Public Schools

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Superintendent Releases Final Capacity Management and Building Closure Recommendations

School Board to vote on final recommendations January 29

Superintendent Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson today released Final Recommendations on District-wide capacity management that include several building closures, a new K-8 school, and a number of program relocations. The net effect of the Superintendent's Final Recommendations are:

- **Five buildings will be closed**, one of which will be closed temporarily and may reopen;
- **Eight programs will relocate** from one building to another;
- **One new program will be created** (a new K-8 school in Northeast Seattle); and
- **Five programs will be discontinued** and their students reassigned to new schools in fall 2009.

A motion on the Final Recommendations will be introduced to the School Board at the School Board meeting on January 7, with a School Board vote scheduled for January 29, 2009.

"These recommendations will strengthen the District's ability to deliver on the promise of an excellent education for every student," said Superintendent Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson. "These recommendations will help protect the district's long-term financial health and strengthen educational programs in our District. We are increasing equitable access to academic programs throughout the city, focusing our resources on fewer buildings, and acting on findings from recent academic and operations audits."

The Final Recommendations are designed to move Seattle Public Schools toward the goals established in the District's strategic plan, *Excellence for All*, by:

- Moving or adding programs to improve equity and access to quality programs across the District
- Focusing resources on fewer facilities and programs in order to protect our long-term fiscal health and strengthen our ability to support student learning
- Improving the balance of classroom capacity with respect to projected enrollment and the geographic location of school-aged children in the city.

This plan would net an estimated savings of \$16.2 million (M) in general operating funds over five years, including implementation costs of \$1.9 M and savings of \$18 M. In addition, the District's deferred maintenance (capital costs) would be reduced by an estimated \$33.1 M, including costs of implementation of \$500,000 and reductions in deferred maintenance of \$33.6 M.

The superintendent's Final Recommendations on District-wide capacity management are based on the preliminary recommendations announced November 25. They have been modified and strengthened based on questions and comments from School Board members; comments and testimony from hundreds of staff, family and community members; and additional analysis.

The Final Recommendations can be summarized as follows:

| SUMMARY OF SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FINAL CAPACITY MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS JANUARY 6, 2009 | | | |
|---|---|------------------------|--|
| BUILDING CLOSURES | RELOCATED PROGRAMS | NEW PROGRAMS | DISCONTINUED PROGRAMS |
| Genesee Hill Mann T.T. Minor Van Asselt Old Hay (may be temporary, depending on enrollment) | Half of Lowell APP to Thurgood Marshall Half of Washington APP to Hamilton NOVA to Meany Pathfinder K-8 to Cooper SBOC to Meany T.T. Minor Montessori to Leschi Thurgood Marshall EBOC to Dunlap and Hawthorne Van Asselt to AAA | New K-8 at Jane Addams | African American Academy Cooper Meany T.T. Minor Summit K-12 |

Recommendations are detailed in the chart below, and explained further in the report.

| SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FINAL CAPACITY MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (1/6/09) | | |
|--|--|---|
| 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 |
| Washington Middle School | CREATE space for Meany general education students at Washington Middle School building | RELOCATE half of the APP program to Hamilton Middle School Other half of APP program and other students remain |
| Meany Middle School | HOUSE co-located NOVA and SBOC programs in Meany building | DISCONTINUE Meany program and reassign students based on where they live |

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SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FINAL CAPACITY MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (1/6/09)

| NAME | BUILDING | PROGRAM |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Hamilton Middle School | ADD half of the APP program from Washington Middle School to Hamilton Middle School | ADD half of the APP program from Washington Middle School |
| NOVA program at Mann building | CLOSE Mann building | RELOCATE NOVA program to Meany building and co-locate with SBOC |
| T.T. Minor Elementary | CLOSE T.T. Minor Building | RELOCATE T.T. Minor Montessori to Leschi DISCONTINUE T.T.Minor Elementary program and reassign students to Lowell Elementary |
| Leschi Elementary | ADD Montessori from T.T. Minor to Leschi building | ADD Montessori from T.T. Minor Current Leschi students remain |
| Lowell Elementary | CREATE space for general education students at Lowell building | RELOCATE approximately half of elementary APP to Thurgood Marshall with half remaining at Lowell Elementary REASSIGN T.T. Minor students to Lowell Elementary At this time, no major relocation of the Special Education programs is contemplated. However, service needs and availability across the district continue to be evaluated in an effort to bring services closer to where students live |
| Thurgood Marshall Elementary | ADD half of elementary APP to Thurgood Marshall building | ASSIGN approximately half of elementary APP to Thurgood Marshall RELOCATE two EBOC classrooms to Dunlap Elementary and two EBOC classrooms to Hawthorne Elementary Other Thurgood Marshall students remain |

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The Final Recommendations above apply only to general education students (except where specified) and students whose needs can be met in a resource room situation. Seattle Public Schools has also developed recommendations for special education students.

| SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS INCLUDED IN FINAL RECOMMENDATION 1/6/09 | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| PROGRAM | CURRENT LOCATION | RECOMMENDATION |
| Autism self-contained primary program at Summit K-12 | Summit K-12 at Jane Addams building | REMAIN at Jane Addams building to become part of the new K-8 |
| Generic self-contained high school program | Summit K-12 at Jane Addams building | REASSIGN students based on where they live. These services are offered at all comprehensive high schools |
| Internalizing Disorder Program (IDP) secondary program | Summit K-12 at Jane Addams Building | RELOCATE to Meany Building as part of NOVA |
| Autism self-contained program at Meany | Meany | REASSIGN students to existing autism self-contained program at Mercer building |
| Behavior Intervention Program | Meany | REASSIGN students based on where they live. These services are offered at all comprehensive middle schools. |
| Low Grouping Program | Meany | RELOCATE to Washington MS |
| Low Incidence A Programs (2) | Meany | RELOCATE one program to Washington MS and one program to Hamilton MS |
| Medically Fragile Program | Meany | RELOCATE to Washington MS |
| Primary and Intermediate Behavior Intervention Programs | T.T. Minor | REASSIGN students based on where they live to schools that offer appropriate services |
| Generic self-contained primary and intermediate programs | Van Asselt | RELOCATE to African American Academy building to remain part of the existing continuum |
| Two autism self-contained and one inclusion program | Cooper | REMAIN at Cooper to become part of Pathfinder K-8 |

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Seattle Public Schools Final Capacity Management Recommendations Public Review Schedule

A motion on Final Recommendations will be introduced to the School Board on January 7, 2009, and the Board will vote on the Final Recommendations on January 29, 2009. Families, staff and community members are encouraged to provide comments. Opportunities include:

| Date | Time | Type of Meeting | Location |
|------------|----------------|----------------------|--|
| January 7 | 6:00 p.m. | School Board meeting | John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence* |
| January 20 | 6:30–8:30 p.m. | Public hearing | Lowell Elementary, 1058 E. Mercer Street |
| January 21 | 6:00 p.m. | School Board meeting | John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence |
| January 22 | 6:30-8:30 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. In addition, comments can be emailed to capacity@seattleschools.org, schoolboard@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.

To sign up to testify at a public hearing, call 206.252.0042 or email hearing@seattleschools.org. Individuals on the list for the original Lowell hearing, rescheduled due to inclement weather, have first priority for that hearing.

To sign up to testify at a School Board meeting, call 206.252.0040 or email boardagenda@seattleschools.org. Sign-ups are accepted beginning at 8 a.m. on the Monday prior to each board meeting.

Final Recommendations Process and Background:

A number of recent studies confirm 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.

On October 29 the Board instructed the Superintendent to begin an evaluation of building closures. 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?
- 3) How do closures or program moves relate to students' **academic needs** and strengthen the District's **fiscal health**?

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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 has made the expected annual academic progress under the federal No Child Left Behind law?

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