

The Southeast Education Initiative

The School Board approved **The Southeast Education Initiative** to ensure that schools in South and Southeast Seattle provide high-quality choices for students and families – beginning with a focus on Aki Kurose Middle School, and on Cleveland and Rainier Beach High Schools.

The Initiative provides additional resources to Aki Kurose Middle School to:

- Expand the range of quality programs and instruction offered to students.
- Increase the level of rigor in core academic subject areas.
- Expand academic and elective offerings.
- Apply research-based programs to improve student achievement.
- Implement strategically aligned professional development for all staff.
- Build upon and expand existing university and community partnerships.
- Establish clear three-year program goals and annual benchmarks to assure that progress is being made.
- Increase yellow school bus service for students who live near Aki Kurose.

Transportation: As a pilot project in 2008-09, the “walk area” for Aki Kurose Middle School students will be reduced to one mile. Students who live between one and two miles from the school will be added to the yellow school bus transportation area for Aki Kurose.

Aki Kurose Middle School (6-8)

3928 S. Graham St., 98118
(206) 252-7700

Aki Kurose Middle School, supported through **The Southeast Education Initiative**, is building an extended day program for all students that will incorporate rigorous academics, music and world language electives, and strong programs in theater and media production.

We provide challenging core classes in reading, writing and math. Our *Writers’ Workshop* program will be augmented with *Readers’ Workshop* to support increased rigor in the academic program. National research has shown that these two programs engage students and support academic success. We also offer world languages in Spanish, French and Chinese, ensuring that students begin early to prepare for college preparatory classes.

To prepare students for Advanced Placement (AP) level course work when they enter high school, we will introduce *Springboard*, a College Board program. This comprehensive program builds students’ critical thinking skills and the understanding they need for later success in AP courses.

We are pleased to partner with Rainier Beach High School to provide an exciting performing arts and media production pathway for Southeast Seattle students in grades six to twelve. A strong focus on arts and media at the middle school level will provide our students with the platform to excel in these fields at the high school level. We plan to offer a full range of band and orchestra electives beginning Fall 2008.

Families are critical partners in supporting student success. The *Flight School* initiative – a partnership of Seattle Public Schools and the Seattle Education Association – supports us in outreach to develop relationships with families. We also host monthly family nights with a specific theme such as math, literacy or science.

Collaborations and partnerships with universities, the City of Seattle, and community organizations support teacher professional development and an array of health and social services for students.

[Click here to see the map.](#)