



NEWS RELEASE

City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

For Immediate Release

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Summer College Helps Students Pass the WASL and Graduate

SEATTLE – Mayor Greg Nickels, Seattle School Superintendent Raj Manhas, North Seattle Community College President Ron Lafayette, and South Seattle Community College President Jill Wakefield today announced the second year of Summer College, a program that aims to help struggling students meet high school graduation and proficiency requirements while exposing them to the opportunities of a college education.

Summer College will help more than 350 high school students who did not pass the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) this spring. The five-week program, made possible by an innovative partnership among the Seattle Public Schools, Seattle Community Colleges and the City of Seattle, will be located at two community college campuses – North Seattle Community College and South Seattle Community College – to quickly boost student achievement and give students an experience of college life.

This year's Summer College program has two components. One component focuses intensely on increasing math proficiency. One hundred and fifty (150) slots are available for this five-week program that operates five days per week and provides one-to-one tutoring in mathematics. The program is available to help students who scored at level 1 or a low level 2 on the mathematics section of the WASL. The students will also be offered classes in literacy (reading and writing) and other college-level classes. WASL scores range from level 1 to 4, with a 3 or 4 required for passage.

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The second component will help up to 200 ninth and 10th grade students, who scored a level 2 on at least one WASL assessment this spring. These students will take mathematics, literacy and an exciting enrichment course that will all count towards high school graduation. Immediately following Summer College classes, students may retake the WASL tests they did not pass.

“This is a step towards giving our kids the best preparation for academic success that we can,” Nickels said. “We are setting the bar high for every student and working to help them make it over the top. Summer College will give these students the tools to pass the WASL, open their eyes to the possibility of entering college and give them hope for the future.”

City Councilmember David Della said, “It takes the entire community to help children and youth reach their full potential. I believe that students from all backgrounds and income levels should have the same opportunity to learn and succeed. Summer College is a unique program that will ensure students in our public schools are provided the tools to succeed academically.”

“This powerful partnership will help Seattle students graduate prepared for college and the workforce,” Manhas said. “Summer College provides an innovative strategy to students who are currently behind academically and need support in passing the WASL, and we have planned a high quality learning experience.”

“The Seattle Community Colleges are proud to host high school students on our campuses and offer a taste of college life,” Lafayette said. Students will take exciting enrichment courses such as Creative Writing, Personal Finance, Career Planning, Game Theory and others.

“We look forward to another year of Summer College,” Wakefield said. “Last year, students blended in beautifully to the tempo of our college campuses.”

Mayor Nickels proposed investing \$107,000 in Summer College in the city’s 2007 Supplemental Budget, using Families & Education Levy funding to pay for enrichment courses, classroom maintenance, lunches and classrooms supplies. The Levy is also investing \$150,000 in tutoring services. The Washington State Legislature added \$19,374,924 for remedial assistance in the 2007 State budget with \$599,099 slated for Seattle Public Schools, which significantly supports the District’s overall remedial efforts.

Summer College will run from July 5 through August 3. Eligible students will be notified by mail between June 11 and June 15, following release of the WASL scores from the State.

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Parents or students seeking to register for Summer College or who would like additional information should call Seattle Public Schools at (206) 252-0815.

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