SPS Supt. Denise Juneau Urges Further Work on Strategic Plan

*Focus on Five New Goals for 2020-21*

SEATTLE – Created under the leadership and guidance of Seattle Public Schools Superintendent Denise Juneau, the district’s five-year strategic plan, Seattle Excellence, was approved in 2019 by the SPS Board of Directors and the plan will be in effect through 2024.

Superintendent Juneau says that the strategic plan work accomplished thus far, much of the time during the pandemic, has established an excellent foundation upon which SPS staff will continue toward the plan’s next set of goals.

“While the conditions created by the pandemic are challenging, the foundational, transformational work that is detailed in our strategic plan won’t be interrupted under any circumstances,” said Superintendent Juneau. “We’ve made great strides during year one and we’ve got to keep the momentum going, because our students deserve it.”

Focus during the 2020-2021 school year will be on these goals:

- Increase on-time graduation by ensuring each student has at least six credits by the end of 9th grade;
- Provide mentorship and wrap-around supports for graduating students to ensure readiness for college and career;
- Continue to strengthen the SPS Nutrition Services Dept.;
- SPS Human Resources Division increases efforts on diversity hiring and retention, including teaching staff, school leadership positions and central office leadership positions;
- Increase focus on family engagement and strengthened partnerships between SPS and student families.
Seattle Excellence is unapologetically focused on supporting students of color who are furthest from educational justice, beginning with Black boys and teens. By actively becoming an anti-racist educational system and ensuring students furthest away from educational justice thrive — conditions in Seattle Public Schools will improve for all.

Highlights from work achieved during the strategic plan’s inaugural year include:

- Superintendent Juneau launched the Office of African American Male Achievement;
- Under Superintendent Juneau’s guidance, the Seattle Super Readers program has distributed more than 60,000 books in two years to students;
- The SPS transportation department implemented special education transportation improvements; enhanced and improved the department’s snow route strategy; implemented new bus routes used to deliver meals during pandemic-related school building closures.

Implementation of Seattle Excellence started with four goals in 2019-2020 that will continue in 2020-21:

- Ensuring students read at or above grade level by completion of third grade;
- Fostering welcoming and safe schools;
- Providing consistent, predictable student transportation;
- Improving culturally responsive professional practice of staff through training.

For more information about the strategic plan update, please see visit the SPS website here.

For more information about Seattle Excellence, please visit the SPS website here.

Stay connected with Superintendent Denise Juneau: https://twitter.com/seattlesupt?lang=en

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