

March 01, 20107

You are receiving this letter because you are a valued and collaborative partner working with the students of Seattle Public Schools. As you may be aware, the population of our public school enrollment, as well as the city, has been increasing rapidly over the past few years. The growth of student enrollment within our schools has been climbing by roughly 1,000 students per year over the past several years and is a trend that we see continuing for the foreseeable future.

As a result of this growth there will be a continued emphasis on using all spaces within buildings owned by Seattle Public Schools for the primary purpose of K-12 instruction. The prioritization below may result in the displacement of some support activities or programs (e.g. preschool, before and after care, or other youth activities) from current spaces being used in such manner. However, there is also some clarity on the prioritization after K-12 instruction. The following is the list of prioritization related to non-hourly before/after hourly use:

1. K-12 Instruction
2. Preschool (because it requires dedicated space and licensing)
3. Before and After Care (because it is more flexible in utilizing multi-use space)
4. Other Youth Activities
5. All other Activities

While most of the impact will happen at the elementary level of buildings, this space prioritization is applicable to all buildings. Additionally, an evaluation of space needs will happen on an annual basis and any impact to an organization or partner would be communicated as soon as possible to allow time to transition. Just because you are receiving this letter, does not mean that you are losing space that is currently being used. This is a general notification. In the event that the space currently being used by your organization needs to be prioritized for K-12 instruction, a specific letter referring to the applicable lease or hourly use would be sent with a timeline attached.

For the 2017-18 school year, *we are not currently anticipating as much of an impact on our partners as in the past.* One of the changes that is having less of an impact is the slowdown of class size reduction. Over the past few years, Seattle Public Schools had been implementing gradually lower class sizes, having the biggest impact on grades K-3. However, with a looming budget deficit of over \$70 million dollars one of the possible approaches has been to raise class sizes, which would require fewer additional classrooms. There will still be a need to add classrooms in some schools based on enrollment growth. Additionally, if the Washington State Legislature were to have a solution to fully fund basic education (thus reducing the possible deficit for next year's budget) there would be a need to add additional classrooms for class size reduction.

We do appreciate the fact that this is very challenging for many of our partners and that we have long standing partnerships that have been developed over decades. However, the continued enrollment growth is something not experienced in Seattle Public Schools for many, many decades and is what we must do in order to respond to the instructional needs of our students.

Sincerely,



Flip Herndon
Associate Superintendent
Facilities and Operations