



NEWS RELEASE

12/30/20 – original news release sent

1/10/21 – updated news release sent

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[SPS Newsroom](#)

Jan. 10, 2021 - UPDATE: Please note, the survey has been extended to Wednesday, January 13, 12 p.m.*

SPS Surveying Specific Groups about Returning to School

Focus on PreK through 1st and select Special Education students

SEATTLE – Seattle Public Schools sent an important survey last week to families with students in preschool, kindergarten, first grade and intensive special education service pathways in order to determine how many students from those groups will be returning to in-person learning in SPS schools in March 2021.

The survey, which was sent to families on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021, is the primary way for the district to ascertain how many families from the specific groups want to return to in-person learning.

There will be an appeal process for families who have a change of circumstance after submitting their selection. Criteria and a review process will be developed and communicated to families.

*The survey must be returned to SPS by 12 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021. If families don't respond to the survey, they will be contacted directly by their child's school to make their selection.

~~The survey must be returned to SPS by Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021. It will then be followed by direct communication from each student's school.~~

The response goal is 100 percent participation in the survey.

SPS is currently in the remote learning framework that the SPS Board of Directors approved prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

As previously announced by Superintendent Denise Juneau, SPS plans to resume in-person learning on March 1, 2021, for the following four groups of students:

- Preschool;
- Kindergarten;
- 1st Grade;
- Students enrolled in special education intensive service pathways.

On Dec. 17, 2020, the school board approved the resolution to begin the phased in return of students.

“We know that some of these families we are focusing on will want their students to continue with remote learning, and that’s their prerogative. But we expect that many more families will want their students to come back to their schools, and we need to know the precise number so we can configure classrooms accordingly,” said Superintendent Denise Juneau. “It’s vital that the families we are initially prioritizing respond to this survey and return it to us as soon as possible.”

The survey has been sent via email, and families have also been notified via robo-call and text messages.

Once SPS receives the completed surveys, staff will be better equipped to determine precisely what needs to be done to accommodate the returning students, including (but not limited to):

- How many in-person teachers will be needed;
- How much classroom space will be needed;
- The appropriate amount of PPE for students and staff;
- Necessary bus and other modes of transportation needed for students;
- Necessary adjustments by SPS Nutrition Services to provide in-person meal service;
- How many remote teachers will be necessary for students choosing to remain remote for the rest of the school year.

SPS will continue to work with its labor partners and educators on planning for an increase of students starting March 1. Negotiations for the in-person model are underway.

For more information about the plan for in-person return, please see the [SPS website](#).

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For more information about **Seattle Public Schools**: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#)

For more information about **Superintendent Denise Juneau**: [Twitter](#)