

# Seattle Public Schools

## Participatory Budgeting



### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

#### **What is the SPS Vision for Participatory Budgeting?**

This year's focus is working with the community to refine our early efforts toward a working PB philosophy and approach that can continue to evolve as a shared practice among SPS communities. Embedded here is a subtle but important acknowledgement that SPS does not serve one monolithic community but many diverse communities with unique and overlapping educational needs, visions, and expectations. Accordingly, SPS intends Participatory Budgeting to shift traditional budgeting practices that have often privileged, affluent, white students and communities over people routinely racialized and marginalized by institutions. Thus, SPS's priority in PB work is to prioritize students and communities our data and related scholarship show are furthest away from educational justice.

In this way, the vision for PB at SPS is to normalize it as a practice that ensures broader values for democracy and anti-racism are reflected and upheld through our work.

#### **How are this year's focus areas accounted for and represented in the current budget?**

Funding was added to the program's budget for any position or other funding approved by the school board.

#### **What is the total amount of resource that SPS has targeted for participatory budgeting and what is that as a percentage of total budget and discretionary spending?**

The board has not provided a targeted amount. Recommendations made by the PB will be considered as part of other budget decisions.

#### **HOW did the Board arrive at these areas for Participatory Budgeting?**

Board community engagement that happened last Fall, and as the board continued to hear from their constituents and families. A draft list was put together by Directors Hampson and Hersey, other board members were asked to add to the list of ten, if needed and then they reached agreement about the areas for the 21-22 process. For the 22-23 process, Directors Hampson and Hersey recommended continuing with the two previous subjects and adding the fundraising policy.