



SEATTLE
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

Media briefing paper

11/10/22

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Update regarding Ingraham High School Shots fired, loss of life – Nov. 8, 2022

Seattle Public Schools is providing this informational summary regarding the tragic incident of violence at Ingraham High School on Nov. 8, 2022.

This brief is designed to inform the school community and the broader public on:

- District supports for school students and staff
- Information relating to established safety and security protocols at all district buildings
- Next steps

Superintendent Brent Jones: *"Tuesday morning, we had an incident of gun violence at one of our schools. Tragically, an Ingraham student was shot and killed on campus. Our collective hearts are broken. We send our deepest condolences to the victim's family and the entire Ingraham school community."*

SPS Board President Brandon Hersey: *"In this moment of sorrow, fear, and confusion, Seattle Public Schools reaffirms that the safety of our students, the safety of your children, remains not only our focus, but our top priority."*

Supports for students, staff

At this time, SPS Coordinated School Health and Wellness – including counselors and social workers -- has provided support and resources to the Ingraham school community.

Staff from Coordinated School Health and Wellness have offered Ingraham staff members opportunities for crisis debriefing through one-to-one discussions and school community circles. Specific guidance on facilitating classroom discussions, teaching social-emotional learning, and supporting individual students has been shared with teachers to support students when they return on Monday, November 14, 2022.

Guidance and resources have also been shared to all SPS schools through their school leaders.

Examples of these resources include “Community Violence: Support and Resources” from the Washington State Employee Assistance Program. [Click here to view this document.](#)

Safety overview at Ingraham High and all SPS buildings

Ingraham High, like all SPS schools, follows established safety protocols as necessary.

At all district schools — including Ingraham — access controls are being updated or added as funding and staffing resources are available. Examples of access controls include “buzzed entries” and card readers at some or all doors.

Recent security upgrades, largely funded by voter-passed levies, have been completed at many schools and will eventually be implemented at all schools. Examples of these upgrades include increased lighting, security cameras, buzzed entries, new fencing, etc. You can [read more about these security upgrades here](#) on the SPS website.

The use of lockdown

Whenever the need arises, one of four emergency procedures can be implemented at any school: shelter-in-place; lockdown; evacuation; reverse-evacuation. In the case of Ingraham High School on Nov. 8, a **lockdown** was immediately implemented when shots were fired.

The death of a student is a tragedy of immense proportions. It is difficult to precisely evaluate the impact of the ensuing lockdown, but it can be stated that staff and student response was appropriate, efficient, and established the safest disposition possible for everyone in the building at the time.

Messaging to families

Whenever there is a need to provide the SPS community with emergent or critical information, the SPS Public Affairs Department uses a three-tiered system, which was implemented Tuesday:

- School Messenger: email; phone call.
- Talking Points: text.
- SPS website: necessary information is posted on the district website and, if needed, the school website.
- All SPS families are automatically registered to receive messaging. If there are problems receiving SPS messaging, families are urged to contact their teacher or school leader.

Safety evaluation

With every incident that occurs at an SPS building, a safety committee evaluates the overall response and makes any necessary recommendations. In addition, the SPS Safety & Security Department produces an incident report, which also assists in evaluating district/staff response to a given circumstance. The incident report and safety committee evaluation regarding the tragedy at Ingraham High are expected in the coming days.

Moving forward

In his weekly comments at the SPS Board of Directors meeting held Nov. 9, Superintendent Jones introduced a new safety initiative comprised of three elements:

- A district-wide safety and security audit
- Creation of a community action team (including SPD and City of Seattle)
- Launch of a Child Well-being Council

More information about this initiative will be available soon.

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