



November 30, 2022

Dear Everett Public Schools' Staff:

I hope you had a nice break and are ready to finish 2022 strong! Besides the holidays and winter break coming up, this also means we are in budget season. The cabinet has spent the last month working on budget predictions for this year and next and I have a few things to share.

The current economic downturn and increased costs of goods and services are causes for many governments, businesses and families to look at their budgets and be more frugal with their spending. The district, like many others, is tightening its belt and figuring out ways to work together to ensure we maintain fiscal integrity while focusing on student learning above all else.

As a team, we need to start making sensible spending decisions to help us remain strong as the economy fluctuates. **Therefore, starting December 1, we will hold all non-essential spending to help reduce the predicted deficit this year and next.** This is part of the process to right-size the organization and prioritize our budget for the long-term. In addition, we have been thoughtfully reviewing each open position to ensure it is essential for district operations or specifically impacting student learning and safety.

Why is this happening:

Everett Public Schools has a long record of strong financial management and exceptional stewardship and even in uncertain economic times, will continue to exercise great care in maintaining that reputation. When the economy fluctuates and the costs of goods increase, it makes sense to reduce spending to stay within our budgets.

What it looks like:

- Even if it is in your budget for this year, starting December 1 you can only purchase items essential to student learning and health and safety.
 - Refer to the definitions below of essential and non-essential
- Items and services that directly affect student learning and safety will be prioritized to the greatest extent possible.

Definitions:

- **Essential:** Items, projects and services that are required by the state, other regulatory requirements, or by current contracts, and if without there would be a direct and noticeable impact on student learning and safety.
- **Non-essential:** Items that are helpful and maybe even be traditional but are not necessary to continue safe and effective student learning.

I know this is a lot to take in, but I will reiterate: we are a great team and I know we can do this! This is an opportunity for us to look at how the work is done and how we spend our money and make strategic decisions for the long-haul for our students.

If you have any questions, you can visit the [staff budget FAQ page](#) – you must sign in to access this resource.

We got this! Stay safe and be well.

Dr. Ian Saltzman
Superintendent