

From: [Superintendent](#)
To: [EPS.MailList](#)
Subject: In the news ... Jackson High "extended" field trip
Date: Monday, March 13, 2017 12:23:31 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon, colleagues.

You may have seen news reports over the weekend about a group of Jackson High School AP Environmental Studies and Environmental Design Systems students and staff who have been stuck at the North Cascades Institute (NCI) while on a field trip since last Friday. An avalanche blocked the highway eight miles west of the institute Friday morning, with 20 to 40 feet of snow covering a section of the roadway. Our students, staff and parent volunteers are safe and well cared for. NCI staff have done an excellent job providing shelter, food, support services and extended learning opportunities for students.

Principal Dave Peters, Jackson High School staff, and several district office staff have been working with our staff at NCI as well as some of the students, the parents, the ranger station staff, NCI staff, Department of Transportation staff, and Governor Inslee and his staff to address the situation and develop a plan to safely transport our group home. The Department of Transportation completed its assessment of the area this morning and determined that it is safe enough to bring in equipment to begin clearing the roadway. They are cautiously optimistic that they will be able to clear one lane to get students and staff safely out later today. They will keep us informed of their progress and we will have buses waiting on the other side to help transport students safely home.

I am extremely proud of the support our staff have provided to our students and families throughout this less than ideal situation. They worked 'round the clock keeping students calm, focused, comfortable, and entertained. I am deeply grateful for their commitment to our students. I am also proud of how well our students handled the situation and unexpected delays. On behalf of the district, I would like to thank the North Cascades Institute, North Cascades National Park Service, emergency personnel and the Washington State Department of Transportation for their support. They have gone above and beyond to ensure our group's safety and get them home quickly. Please contact the Communications Office, 425-385-4040, if you have questions or need additional assistance.



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