



October 16, 2020

Dear Everett Public Schools staff,

Thank you for the great work you have been doing to ensure our students receive the best education possible while staying safe and healthy. With the precautions we are putting in place in our buildings and for our students and staff, we are ready to bring our most vulnerable students back into the classrooms.

This week the Snohomish County Health District reported an increase in local COVID cases and cautioned return to the classroom for students unless plans were in place and they were high need students. The guidance they provided in their school start [decision tree](#) indicates we are able to bring back small groups of students in the highest need categories. Plans have been in motion for weeks to bring four (4) groups of self-contained special education students back, and our goal is **November 2**. As with other things during this COVID pandemic, case counts could adjust that date if necessary.

[Stage 2](#) brings Developmental Kindergarten, STRIVE and Life Skills students back into the classroom five (5) days a week and Developmental Pre-K four (4) days a week. We have communicated with these students and the related staff about the return to classrooms soon. Student families were given an option on whether they would like to return to the classroom or stay 100% remote, and related teachers and special services staff were able to indicate their preference for working in the classroom or remotely.

In total, this will bring around 175 students who are not able access services they need in a remote setting. This will result in between four (4) and 15 kids being in 19 school buildings. Keeping these groups small, providing the appropriate PPE and training will enable us to serve these students who are farthest from educational justice.

We have also defined which students will be in future stages, the dates will be determined by local COVID case trendlines and guidance from the health district. The [learning model stages](#) and [hybrid model](#) are on our website and will be sent to families later today. Families with students in K-5, Achieve and Extended Resource, along with the related certificated staff, will be receiving a survey in the next day to indicate their preference for the remainder of the school year.

As we look forward to bringing more students back into the classroom, we will implement protocols to protect the health and safety of our students, staff and families. Families are being directed to a [Parent COVID-19 handbook](#) as their students return to the classroom. There is also a Staff COVID-19 safety handbook which will be available shortly, but some highlights include:

- All students and staff will be asked to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. If they are feeling sick, they should stay home from school. If they are experiencing symptoms of the virus, they should consult a healthcare professional right away and notify the school office.

- Students and staff will be frequently reminded about the importance of proper handwashing. We have placed no-touch hand sanitizer units throughout our buildings.
- All students and staff members will be required to wear masks or face coverings.
- We will follow the six (6)-foot social distancing recommendation and have indicated capacities for classrooms.

The health, safety, and well-being of our school community remains our top priority. We are following sound protocols aligned with expert health guidance.

We look forward to seeing everyone back in our school soon. If you have any questions, please contact your principal or supervisor. Once again, thank you for all your efforts to provide a smooth transition.

Stay safe and be well,

Ian Saltzman
Superintendent