

Subject line: Possible delay to the start of school

Dear SPS families and staff,

Seattle Public Schools (SPS) and Seattle Education Association (SEA) continue negotiations to renew the SPS educators' contract. We are optimistic an agreement will be reached.

It is possible there will be a delay to the start of school while we work with our labor partners toward agreement on the contract.

We remain focused on starting school next week. The SPS bargaining team continues negotiations every day. We are committed to working with SEA to agree on a contract that best meets the needs of our students, staff, and schools.

Our goal is to have students back in classrooms and begin 180 days of high-quality instruction for the 2022-23 school year. Washington state school districts must provide, at minimum, 180 school days for students. This means make-up days may extend our school year. We will look at options for make-up student instructional days if needed.

We know the challenges placed on students and families when schools are closed.

If school is delayed, we are working on a plan for next week to provide pick-up meals for students. We are also reaching out to community childcare providers to help support our families. We expect after-school athletics will continue, even if there is a delay in the start of school.

We will publish details about student meals, childcare, additional resources in the event of a delayed start of school on our Family Resource and FAQ webpage.

We remain hopeful we will reach an agreement in time for all the excitement and energy we know comes with a first day of school! Read district and SEA collective bargaining updates.

Thank you to our educators and staff who have been working hard this week to prepare classrooms and schools for our students. We will continue to keep you updated as we have more information.

Please send us questions using our Let's Talk online form.

Sincerely,

Office of Public Affairs
Seattle Public Schools