



Launch's Seattle Public Schools Reopening FAQ as of February 2, 2021

This document will continue to be updated as Seattle Public Schools (SPS), Public Health of Seattle & King County, and the Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families update their COVID-19 plans, recommendations, and protocols in preparation for a tentative school reopening start date of March 1, 2021.

SPS is regularly updating their school reopening FAQ, which can be found here:

<https://www.seattleschools.org/resources>

The district is also in the process of negotiating with the Seattle Education Association (the teacher's union) on reopening. You can view the updated Collective Bargaining Proposal here:

https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/bargaining_update

The below information will continue to be updated as Seattle Public School continues to release details, and as Launch continues to assess our response plan. Please check back regularly at www.launchlearning.org for updates.

1. *When is Seattle Public Schools planning on bringing students back for in-person instruction?*
 - a. The tentative start date for students enrolled in Intensive Service Pathways (special education services) is March 1st. At this time, there is **NO SET DATE** for Pre-K – 1st graders to return to in-person instruction.

2. *Will Launch be offering after-school programs for students in Pre-K – 1st if/when they return to in-person instruction?*
 - a. The short answer is **MAYBE**. Seattle Public Schools has introduced a proposal for Pre-K – 1st students to participate in a HYBRID AA/BB Model, which creates significant barriers to keeping students and staff safe in an after-school program. This proposed SPS model will split students into AA/BB models, with half of the Pre-K– 1st students attending in-person instruction on Mondays/Tuesdays and half attending on Thursdays/Fridays. Wednesdays will continue to be asynchronous for ALL students. This proposal was released on Friday, January 29th.
 - b. Any students who are currently enrolled in a Launch program NOT located at their home elementary school and are planning to attend in-person instruction will **NOT be allowed to attend a different in-person school and then attend their Launch program for after-school.** In order to protect students, families, and staff from Covid-19, we need to be able to minimize contact between student groups in cohorts and prevent exposure to other groups of children. At this time, we cannot allow multiple schools/programs to come in contact with one another based on current Public Health guidelines to minimize the spread of Covid-19. .

If this applies to you, please contact your Program Site Manager immediately to discuss options.

3. Will Launch continue providing full-day programs for 2nd-5th grade students and Pre-K-1st grade students who do not return to in-person instruction?
 - a. Yes, Launch intends to continue providing full-day care from 8am-6pm Monday-Friday for our currently enrolled 2nd-5th grade students and Pre-K-1st grade students who do not return for in-person instruction. While at this time, we do not anticipate any issues, please note that our ability to continue offering full-day care is dependent upon space availability and the specifics of SPS' final reopening plan.
 - b. If your child isn't currently enrolled in full-day care at Launch, but you would like them to be, please contact Enrollment@launchlearning.org for information on space availability and the registration process.

4. What does it mean for Launch if Kindergarten-1st graders attend in-person instruction 4-5 days a week? (The original SPS reopening proposal)
 - a. Launch will continue to offer ALL-DAY in-person care for students in Pre-K – 5th grade.
 - b. Any students planning on attending in-person instruction with SPS **MUST** inform their Program Site Manager by 5pm on Monday, February 15th.
 - c. Students attending in-person SPS instruction who need to access after-school programs and/or full-day care on Wednesdays (if Wednesdays remain asynchronous) will be placed into a new cohort, just for students attending in-person instruction.
 - i. These cohorts will be a mixture of K-1st graders. Launch does not have the capacity to offer individual grade cohorts, nor are we able to ensure that all Kindergarten and/or 1st graders in each Launch cohort will be in the same SPS classroom for their in-person instruction. This means that K-1st graders who return to in-person SPS instruction and attend Launch's after-school care may be in a Launch group with K-1st grade children who are in a different SPS classroom.

5. What does it mean for Launch if Kindergarten-1st graders attend in-person instruction 2 days a week on an AA/BB model? (The new SPS proposal released on Friday, Jan 29)
 - a. If this proposal is adopted, Launch will consider offering after-school programs at select locations, depending on demand, capacity, and our ability to offer after-school care safely.
 - b. **Launch's ability to offer after-school and/or all-day care on remote learning days in this model is extremely limited.**

6. I've read the SPS FAQ. What is important to know as my family makes our decision?
 - a. Will the Launch program be moved into other spaces at the school?
 - i. Some Launch locations will be moved into other spaces within the school as students return to in-person instruction. We will mitigate the stress of moving classrooms for all-day remote instruction students to

the best of our ability, and we ask families to assist us in communicating classroom/routine changes to their children.

b. *Will my student's SPS teacher change?*

i. The short answer is MAYBE. The SPS FAQ says:

“Students who return to in-person learning will remain enrolled in their current school, but their teacher may change. Students who remain in remote learning may also have a different teacher. Shifts in staffing will depend on how many families choose in-person and how many families select to remain remote for the 2020-21 school year. Staffing will also depend on the number of teaching staff who request remote working accommodations. We will prioritize staffing consistency as much as possible.”

c. *Will SPS be following the same Health and Safety guidelines as Launch?*

i. Many of the Health and Safety requirements for schools are part of the collective bargaining process with SPS teachers and are currently being negotiated. One important distinction between SPS and Launch regarding quarantine and classroom closures can be found in the SPS FAQ. The question from the FAQ asks whether a cohort would move to remote-learning if there is a positive case of COVID-19 in the classroom.

1. **SPS:** Would the whole class quarantine and move to remote learning? The DOH guidance for a COVID-19 outbreak in schools when grouping or cohorting students is to dismiss the entire classroom for home quarantine for 14 days if **TWO or more laboratory positive (PCR or antigen) COVID-19 cases occur within the group or cohort within a 14-day period.**

2. **Launch:** Public Health Guidance for Childcare Programs requires a 14-day closure for **ONE positive** case of COVID-19

I have questions or concerns about the SPS reopening plan. Who should I talk to at the district?

d. If you have specific questions or concerns about the SPS reopening plan and what it may mean for your child, please reach out to your child's principal.

e. You can also email publicaffairs@seattleschools.org with any questions not addressed in the FAQ.