

Give every child a great education

A community value statement in support of public schools

We are leaders of non-profits, school volunteers and community members working to ensure the success of all children in Seattle Public Schools. We want an opportunity to share our perspective and to speak to what we believe is in the best interests of public schools and their students.

While recognizing the financial constraints placed on the school district, we support the following recommendations as important factors in improving the quality of education for Seattle children.

We believe:

All schools must be quality schools and the district should ensure:

- Every school is led by a principal who is an effective instructional leader and manager
- Every classroom is led by an effective teacher
- Every student is provided equitable access to core academics, enrichment opportunities and services as needed
- Every family is given the opportunity to work in collaboration with educators

In support of these values, we propose the attached and request an ongoing dialogue.

Signed:

Supporting recommendations
for Seattle Public Schools policy and practice

All schools must be quality schools and the district should ensure:

- Every school is led by a principal who is an effective instructional leader and manager
- Every classroom is led by an effective teacher

Our recommendations:

- Define principal and teacher effectiveness using clear criteria and benchmarks.
- Evaluate principals and teachers using multiple measures that include student performance.
- Identify ineffective principals and teachers. If benchmarks are not met after appropriate support, develop a timely exit plan.
- Consider teacher effectiveness and cohesiveness of school teams, in addition to seniority, when hiring or reducing staff.

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- Every student is provided equitable access to core academics, enrichment opportunities and services as needed

Our recommendations:

- Ensure appropriate programs are available to meet the needs of all students.
- Ensure all students receive the state's requirements for instructional time.
- Ensure all students have access to curriculum and supplemental online materials.

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- Every family is given the opportunity to work in collaboration with educators

Our recommendations:

- Define district-wide parameters for building leadership teams, design teams and interview teams, ensuring that parents and community members have a voice and representative vote.
- Document and respond to family and student concerns.
- Require all teachers to use the Source to post grades and assignments in a timely manner so that families can monitor student status.

In closing, we would like to thank Seattle Public Schools staff and school board directors for partnering with us in so many areas and for considering our perspective on how Seattle schools can improve.