

Seattle Education Association Frequently Asked Questions Regarding SPS School Closure - COVID-19 Response

This page will be updated with information regarding the impacts of the SPS school closure on our SEA members and larger school communities. Our goal is to provide our SEA members with up to date and accurate information. This page will be updated as new information becomes available.

This list isn't a comprehensive list of all the issues we are working on (there are many), but rather questions where we have clear answers to at this time.

If you have any other questions, please email sea@washingtonea.org.

March 11, 2020, 4pm

- **Where can I get the latest information on COVID-19?**
 - [SEA Website](#): Continue to check our webpage, we will update regularly as new information becomes available.
 - [Seattle Public Schools](#)
 - [OSPPI Guidance and Resources](#)
 - [Seattle - King County Public Health](#)
 - [Washington State Department of Health](#)
 - [AFL-CIO COVID-19 Outbreak Resources](#)

- **With this two-week shutdown, will regular paychecks be affected? Will classified staff get paid?**

Classified and Certificated FTE employees and long-term substitutes will continue to receive their regular paychecks during the shutdown.

- **What will happen to my health insurance?**

WEA lobbyists have worked with legislators to pass legislation that will protect people's benefits during a closure. This legislation SB 6189 has passed both houses and is on the way to the Governor's desk. The legislation will require that individuals who qualified for benefits as of February 29, 2020 (the date of the Governor declaring a state of emergency) would maintain their benefits.

In addition, when the employee returns to work or school is reopened, eligibility would remain if the employee's schedule is the same as before the closure or if there is a change in schedule, if that change in schedule would have reached the 630 hour eligibility standard had it been worked during the absence/closure.

- **How will school closures impact apportionment for districts that close for COVID-19 and are not able to make up the 180 days or the 1020 hours (District wide average) before the end of the school year?**

Through OSPI Bulletin No 013-20 and No. 016-20, OSPI has stated that they will work to review and amend rules as needed in order to make sure that allocations are not reduced due to short- and long-term closure due COVID-19: "...OSPI expects districts to make every effort possible to make-up any days and instructional hours lost due to the COVID-19 outbreak, including extending the school year to June 19 if necessary. OSPI will file an emergency rule to allow the agency to waive the days and instructional hours that districts won't be able to make up after June 19. This rule will be in effect for the 2019–20 school year only. Districts should wait until they know the extent of their closures before submitting an application for a waiver. OSPI will provide more information about the submittal process within the next two months."

- **Will I have to make up the days?**

Per [OSPI](#): OSPI expects districts to make every effort possible to make-up any days and instructional hours lost due to the COVID-19 outbreak, including extending the school year to June 19 if necessary.

- **Are we adding days to the calendar?**

Per [OSPI](#): OSPI expects districts to make every effort possible to make-up any days and instructional hours lost due to the COVID-19 outbreak, including extending the school year to June 19 if necessary. OSPI will file an emergency rule to allow the agency to waive the days and instructional hours that districts won't be able to make up after June 19. This rule will be in effect for the 2019–20 school year only. Districts should wait until they know the extent of their closures before submitting an application for a waiver. OSPI will provide more information about the submittal process within the next two months.

- **I don't have enough sick leave for the duration of the closure. Will I be penalized?**

No member will be required to utilize their own leave for the duration of the closure.

- **Am I required to complete lesson plans during the closure?**

Teacher are not required to complete lesson plans or student material at this time.

- **What happens to field trips?**

All Field trips are cancelled/postponed until further notice.

- **What will happen to high school sports?**

High School Sports are governed by WIAA. The district will receive direction from them.

- **Are staff able to work at schools during the closure?**

No, for the safety of staff and the community, schools will be locked and closed at this time.

- **Will there be food distribution for students?**

Food distribution will resume Monday March 16th. Details TBA by SPS.