



June 10, 2020

Superintendent Juneau and Members of the Seattle School Board:

The Seattle Education Association calls on you to immediately divest all funds, contracts, relationship, and outreach to the Seattle Police Department.

As educators, our job is to support and protect the welfare of our students, especially our students furthest from educational justice, the vast majority who are black, indigenous, people of color (BIPOC). [The current petition from students of SPS to ask SPS to divest from police within our schools, has over 18,000 signatures.](#)

It is our responsibility to listen to our students, families and community. The Black community has a right to daily life activities without fearing for their lives. In a time where racial and police violence is at the center of the national debate, it is our responsibility to use our power to re-imagine a world without police in our schools.

In this spirit, SEA furthermore calls for Seattle Public Schools to redirect any divested funds and resources to hire counselors, social workers, family support workers, student family advocates, restorative justice educators, educators of gender and sexuality curriculum, ethnic studies educators and curriculum, and social support relief positions in partnership with SEA including training on safe de-escalation strategies, and transparency centering student and family voice within Seattle Public Schools.

In the middle of re-imagining what a model for schools will be in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must seize this opportunity to also re-imagine what school models we can build that truly support our BIPOC students and families.

Sincerely,

SEA Leadership

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