



January 11, 2021

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Governor of the Great State of Washington

Dr. Umair Shah  
Secretary of Health for the State of Washington

Dr. Jeffrey Duchin  
Health Officer for Public Health-Seattle & King County

Dear Governor Inslee, Dr. Shah, and Dr. Duchin,

The Seattle Education Association would like to express support for Seattle Public Schools Superintendent Juneau's letter to you dated January 8, 2021, requesting educators who are providing in-person services be prioritized to receive COVID-19 vaccinations this month. As Superintendent Juneau stated, "Prioritizing vaccinations for public educators and critical support staff will send a strong message of the state's commitment to public education and care for our public educators in a time when so much is uncertain. This action will help build trust in our collective commitment to recovery."

As outlined in the Superintendent's letter, Seattle Public Schools is working on a plan to provide an option for in-person instruction for up to 10,000 students in PreK, Kindergarten, 1st grade, and certain special education service pathways beginning as early as March 1. **While there are many pieces that need to be in place before we can safely and equitably return to in-person, the opportunity for educators and other staff to receive vaccinations is absolutely critical to that effort.** This includes office professionals, paraeducators, custodians, nutrition services, transportation in addition to classroom teachers. Perhaps most importantly, vaccination of educators and support staff helps provide the stability our community needs. It is much less likely we would experience the disruption we have seen in other communities when classrooms, schools, or even entire districts have to close on short notice due to lack of staffing or quarantining requirements. In addition, while it is not yet clear whether those vaccinated may transmit the virus, we are hopeful that vaccination of educators and support staff would make schools safer for everyone.

Respectfully Submitted,

Handwritten signature of Jennifer Matter in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Uti Hawkins in black ink.

Jennifer Matter, SEA President, and Uti Hawkins, SEA Vice President

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