






# WE CAN EMBRACE A BETTER PATH FORWARD




Seattle Public Schools (SPS) is proposing closing up to 21 elementary schools, changing boundaries, and eliminating option and alternative programs, but we believe there's a better path forward. Instead of shrinking public education, we need to strengthen it—ensuring every child has access to high-quality, equitable education.

## WHY MASS SCHOOL CLOSURES WON'T WORK

-  **Fails to Address the Budget Deficit:** Closing up to 21 schools will not close SPS's \$94 million projected shortfall.
-  **Harms Student Outcomes:** Similar closures in other cities like Chicago and San Antonio led to worse academic results for students.
-  **Remaining Schools Won't Be Better Resourced:** Even after closures, staff and program cuts will remain necessary, leaving schools underfunded.
-  **No Public Mandate for One-Size-Fits-All Schools:** SPS has not sought public input to end highly-valued differentiated learning opportunities, highly capable cohorts, dual language immersion, K-8 or option schools.
-  **Creates Chaos and Exacerbates Enrollment Decline:** Closing schools and redrawing boundaries citywide will create confusion and instability, driving families away from SPS.

## A VISION FOR A BETTER FUTURE

We advocate for an inclusive, supportive, and well-resourced public school system:

-  **Maintain Diverse, High-Quality Schools:** SPS must support differentiated learning, smaller class sizes, and keep alternative programs accessible to all students.
-  **Center Equity in Education:** We need SPS to adopt proven equity practices that target resources to the students who need them most.
-  **Work Together for Solutions:** SPS should partner with the public, building trust and creating a school system where all students and families thrive.

To truly meet student needs, we need new SPS leadership, financial transparency through a third-party audit, and a new vision that prioritizes our children. Our public school system faces an alarming budget deficit, and district decisions appear unsupported by evidence, lack authentic community engagement, and are made without public input.

**Seattle is at a pivotal moment regarding the future of our public schools. We must choose: continue with Seattle Public School leaders' catastrophic plan to close up to 21 elementary schools or move forward and build a stable future focused on student learning and hold the state accountable for amply funding public schools.**