

## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Arlington Public Schools to start bringing more students on campus on Oct. 5**

ARLINGTON- The Arlington School Board last night approved bringing back kindergartners and first graders within a hybrid model starting on Monday, Oct. 5 as COVID-19 cases continue to decrease in Snohomish County. The Snohomish Health District has stated that a reasonable next step is for schools to begin planning for how to expand in-person learning to elementary school students, as well as to students with high needs in any grade level not already receiving in-person services.

Arlington Public Schools has a six step reopening plan to bring students back on campus. The district is currently in step 3. Step 3 allows for certain students with the greatest need for additional support to be on campus with all other students participating in distance learning.

The district will begin moving into step 4 incrementally with kindergartners and first graders on campus next month for two days of instruction and three days of distance learning. Half of the students would be on campus on Monday and Tuesday and the other half would be on campus on Wednesday and Thursday to better comply with the COVID-19 health and safety measures as set forth in guidance from the Department of Health and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

“We will monitor the success of bringing this first group back for at least three weeks, then depending on the results, begin to consider and plan for the next group of students,” said Arlington Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Chrys Sweeting. “Safety for students and staff is a top priority.”

At this time, the Snohomish Health District is not recommending that middle and high school students return to in-person learning. According to the health district, this is due to: teenage students having higher rates of COVID-19 than younger

children; are probably more likely to spread COVID-19 if infected; and as a group, appear to face fewer challenges in remote learning.

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