

April 2025

Seattle Public Schools Enrollment Advocacy Letter Writing Template

Write a letter to SPS District Leaders to urge them to enroll families that want to attend public schools!

To:

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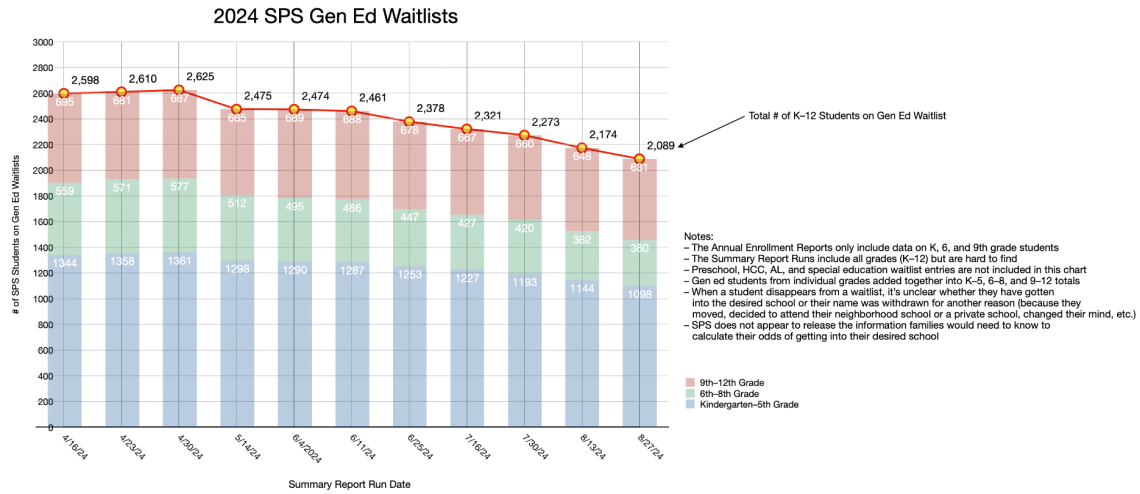
I am a <parent / student / teacher/ community member> from <school name> and I am writing to urge Seattle Public Schools (SPS) to end its mismanagement of student enrollment, put a stop to deliberate actions that prevent families from enrolling, and enroll families in their preferred school in order to grow enrollment district-wide and help to stabilize district finances.

SPS leaders have pointed to declining enrollment as a driving factor behind the District's ongoing budget shortfall. **Despite that, [SPS left more than 2,000 students on waitlists](#) without enrolling them in their preferred school for the 2024-25 school year.** That includes 1,228 students on neighborhood school, general education waitlists and 861 families on option school waitlists for the 2024-25 school year.

It's unconscionable that SPS would actively prevent students from enrolling in public schools at a time when leaders pushed an agenda that schools need to be closed due to declining enrollment.

Sibling priority was ignored. In Kindergarten, 6th and 9th grade alone (the only grades SPS provides data for), 104 siblings were waitlisted, in many cases preventing them from attending the same school as their older sibling.

SPS leaders have claimed students were not enrolled from waitlists due to limited capacity at schools, but this is simply not true: almost every one of the school buildings had the ability to add more students and teachers. The below graph shows how many SPS students sat on waitlists last year, hoping to get into schools that have more room in them now than anytime in the last five years.



Projected Enrollment vs. Building Capacity

School	Projected Enrollment from Purple Book (AAFTE)		Building Capacity	24-25 Open Seats	25-26 Open Seats
	24-25 SY	25-26 SY			
Cedar Park	234	224	280	46	56
Center School	157	136	300	143	164
Cleveland HS	800	738	965	165	227
Hazel Wolf K-8	727	658	680	-47	22
John Stanford	429	439	437	8	-2
Licton Springs K-8	101	89	375	274	286
Louisa Boren STEM K-8	445	418	555	110	137
McDonald	451	437	471	20	34
Nova	260	254	360	100	106
Orca K-8	368	267	447	79	180
Pathfinder K-8	461	411	459	-2	48
Queen Anne Elem.	193	159	500	307	341
Salmon Bay K-8	628	592	684	56	92
South Shore K-8	516	480	699	183	219
Thornton Creek	423	366	572	149	206
TOPS K-8	466	447	550	84	103
TOTAL	6659	6115	8334	1675	2219

<Add personal stories/reflections on the impact and benefits of option/alternative programming to your student, family and community (if relevant)>

[The Seattle Student Options Coalition](#) is a community of families from across the District advocating to enroll students in their preferred schools. The coalition [filed a formal complaint](#) with the SPS Ombudsperson but the District dismissed the complaint.

Preventing families from enrolling in their preferred school despite available space is completely unjustifiable and must stop. This practice erodes trust and cannot be justified by staffing or resource needs. Many families who were denied their preferred schools chose to leave SPS entirely, further exacerbating the District's budget deficit. Turning away students from their desired program undermines a strong, equitable public school system.

As a publicly funded entity, it is the District's duty to enroll ALL families seeking a public education in Seattle. SPS must end hidden policies that amount to an "own goal" by preventing students who want to enroll from attending their preferred school. SPS is worsening its budget deficit and pitting schools against each other. Public schools across the nation are under attack—Seattle must lead by example.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Address

Contact information