

Family Communication

September 30, 2022

Hello Families,

I wanted to begin this week's message by expressing my gratitude. I am grateful for the patience, support, and feedback regarding the start of the school year. This month, we opened three new elementary classrooms, adjusted classes at our secondary schools, and made other changes to keep class sizes as small as possible. Smaller class sizes continue to be a priority, and the timing of adding or reducing classes typically takes place after the fourth day of school. We are committed to ensuring students have a positive experience at school! Thank you, too, for our fantastic staff. The SCSD staff are talented, caring, and willing to do what it takes to provide for our student's needs.

Special Education

I shared the following message with our staff in my weekly staff newsletter, and I felt it should be shared with families as well.

Over the last year, I have had conversations with staff and families regarding special education programming, our beliefs, and the law. I want to take the opportunity to share a few insights that many of you may already know:

- All students are general education students first!
- When students participate in programs like special education, multi-language learning, etc., these experiences are in addition to general education programming
- Inclusion in education refers to every student being able to access and gain equal opportunities for teaching and learning

OPSI reminds us that the law states that "all students have a right to meaningfully participate in the general education setting, both academically and socially to the fullest extent possible. Inclusion is realized when all students, regardless of their designation to receive special education

services, are provided with targeted services, supports, and accommodations, allowing them to learn in the general education classroom, interact with peers, and engage in the core curriculum.” These are not suggestions; they are mandates for adults and opportunities for students.

I would encourage all to review the [Myths & Facts about Inclusionary Practices in Washington State](#). This document outlines seven common myths about Inclusionary Practices, facts, evidence, and strategies for dispelling myths. The use of the words “inclusive settings” in our district promise is intentional. We have a legal and ethical responsibility and opportunity to serve all students according to the law and what we know best prepares students for their future.

Get social with us!

Please remember to follow the SCSD on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#), and follow my tweets [@rumbaughsup](#).

**Respectfully,
Deborah Rumbaugh, Ed.D.
Superintendent**