



# Ellensburg School District #401

1300 East Third Avenue  
Ellensburg, WA 98926  
[www.esd401.org](http://www.esd401.org)  
Phone 509-925-8000  
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Dear Parents and Students,

We want to start by thanking you for all your support over the last month and for your grace as our system completely overhauls our normal ways of teaching and learning. Ellensburg is truly learning together, and our entire staff has felt the strength of our community's collective care for one another during this time. Thank you. That communal support will be what carries us through.

In order to support students' engagement with their learning, we need your feedback! Now that we have a few weeks to reflect on, we'd like to know what's working well and what needs tweaking. **Please take a few minutes to fill out [this](#) quick survey.** We know how busy everyone is and appreciate your time in providing this valuable feedback.

Additionally, we want you to know we have been working on identifying essential outcomes for each grade level and course. Chris Reykdal, Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction, emphasizes, "Getting through all the chapters and all the assignments is not our priority right now. Checking in with students and families and offering continuous learning against a handful of critical standards is our need. Together, we have eight weeks to ensure that all our students have the most essential building blocks in place to achieve success in their next class, their next grade, and their next pursuit" ("Student Learning and Grading Guidance," OSPI). Essential outcomes will be added to our site [here](#) as we finalize them. A complete list of Washington State Learning Standards can also be viewed [here](#). Articulating essential outcomes for each grade and course will allow teachers and students to focus their time on the skills and knowledge that are the most critical.

In addition to focusing teaching and learning through essential outcomes, we're also working to align with OSPI guidance on how much time students should be spending on independent work. That daily guidance is as follows:

Pre-Kinder: 30 minutes

Grades K-1: 45 minutes

Grades 2-3: 60 minutes

Grades 4-5: 90 minutes

Grades 6-8: 20 minutes per class (2.5 hours maximum per day)

Grades 9-12: 30 minutes per class (3 hours maximum per day)

As you navigate some of the challenges of remote learning, we also want to make sure you are aware of some helpful technology resources and support.

- Our IT department has successfully installed Wi-Fi hotspots at each of our schools. These hotspots provide opportunities for our parents and students to drive to a school and receive free internet service while in their cars. They also have an approximate 250-foot reach into the community surrounding each school. Parents may also access free internet service at the community locations listed [here](#), on this link.
- For information on how to sign up for discounted or free internet from various private internet sources, see [here](#).

The Ellensburg School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Kim Snider, Title IX Coordinator and Civil Rights Coordinator, 509-925-8007, [kim.snider@esd401.org](mailto:kim.snider@esd401.org) and Section 504 Coordinator, Kelly Kronbauer, 509-925-8011, [kelly.kronbauer@esd401.org](mailto:kelly.kronbauer@esd401.org), 1300 East Third Avenue, Ellensburg, WA 98926.



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- Parents and students now have a way to send in a help-desk ticket to the IT department if they are having problems with their ESD devices. A special thank you to the IT staff for providing this service. [This form](#) is also linked to on our site.

Our first four weeks of more organized learning support for students have been filled with both successes and challenges. We are proud of the incredible efforts of staff, students, and families to engage in continuous learning. We continue to value connection with students, the provision of learning opportunities, and ensuring our seniors get the support they need to graduate. It is important all students are doing their best to engage with their teachers and school work now through the end of the year.

Thank you again for all your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kuntz, Director of Teaching and Learning, [jennifer.kuntz@esd401.org](mailto:jennifer.kuntz@esd401.org)

Jinger Haberer, Superintendent, [jinger.haberer@esd401.org](mailto:jinger.haberer@esd401.org)

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