



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES  
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Dec. 27, 2024

**TO:** Green Hill School Staff & Young People  
**FROM:** Jennifer Redman *Jennifer Redman*  
Green Hill School Interim Superintendent  
**SUBJECT:** Green Hill School Update – Dec. 27, 2024

Good afternoon, Green Hill School,

I'd like to first thank our staff here at Green Hill School (GHS) as well as the unified command staff and teams for all your hard work and the time you've dedicated to improving conditions here. Especially those of you who worked over the holiday and sacrificed time with your families to ensure that GHS remains a safe, rehabilitative space.

This week we have a few updates on contraband response and prevention, forums and recruitment.

**Contraband:** This week we implemented some of the action items identified in the Dec. 12, 2024 memorandum to campus regarding the additional safety and security measures to reduce the introduction of contraband and drugs onto campus. This was further prioritized following an incident on Dec. 23, 2024, where staff intercepted a football thrown over the fence by the recreation building filled with a large volume of drugs. Green Hill School partnered with local law enforcement, who were able to locate surveillance of the subject who threw the football.

This past week we:

- Began the process of copying all resident mail (except for legal mail),
- Implemented no contact visitation and reduced the number of visitors allowed,
- Scheduled discussions with our Labor partners regarding the new clear bag policy, and
- Increased capacity in our intensive outpatient substance abuse program beginning in the January cohorts. Additional one-on-one will be provided by substance use disorder professionals as well.

**Forums:** Our contracted community partners continue to facilitate forums with young people. Several ideas to improve the conditions on campus despite the overcrowding have been identified, with the young people desiring the same improvements as staff.

A separate forum for young people wishing to inform the design of the DCYF/JR Emerging Leaders Program at Stafford Creek was facilitated by Assistant Secretary Felice Upton and Education Director Haley Lowe on Dec. 23, 2024.

Additionally, a staff forum was held following the annual Pursuit for Change event on Dec. 19, 2024, with some of our legislative partners and DCYF leaders. Staff were able to express the

challenges they continue to experience doing their work and the impact on the services for young people. They described specific safety concerns for staff and young people caused by the ongoing overcrowding and asked for advocacy in this upcoming legislative session.

Recognizing the impact on young people that overpopulation and staffing challenges has on opportunities for dedicated contact with adults outside of their living units, we implemented an interim measure to increase these types of supports.

Over 40 young people were identified from higher populated living units who would benefit from this type of increased contact. Each was assigned a GHS team member who is not assigned to a living unit to meet with them, preferably outside of the unit, once or twice per week outside of their normal duties. Staff include program specialists, Associate Superintendents, Superintendent, recreation staff, transition counselors, coordinators, etc. Our hope is this can support increased engagement and goal setting with young people while we continue our hiring efforts.

**Recruitment:** Interviews have been scheduled for both the GHS superintendent position and the Emerging Leaders Program at Stafford Creek.

For staff, if you have questions, please address them with your supervisor. Young people can reach out to their living unit manager.