

SPOKANE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Staff Re-entry Plan

Indian Trail Elementary · Pauline Flett Middle School · Woodridge Elementary
Limited Staff Re-Occupancy Following Wildfire Smoke Assessment

FINAL

Basis Document:	Fulcrum Environmental Consulting — Pre-Occupancy Airborne Particulate Assessment (dated August 12, 2026)
Testing Date:	August 11, 2026
Scope of This Clearance:	District staff and authorized contractors only — not students
Prepared By:	Travis Schulhauser, Chief Operations Officer
Plan Issue Date:	August 13, 2026
Target Staff Return Date:	August 17, 2026
Document Status:	Final

1. Purpose

This communication plan lays out how Spokane Public Schools (SPS) will notify and return staff and authorized contractors to Indian Trail Elementary, Pauline Flett Middle School, and Woodridge Elementary following the independent wildfire smoke assessment completed by Fulcrum Environmental Consulting, Inc. (Fulcrum) on August 11, 2026.

2. Timeline of Events

The table below consolidates the key dates from the Old Trail Fire evacuation order through the first day of school, covering both the staff return addressed by this plan and the subsequent student return.

Date	Event	Detail
Sun, Aug 9, 2026	Evacuation level downgraded from Level 3 to Level 1	Indian Trail, Flett, and Woodridge cleared to begin re-entry assessment and planning
Tue, Aug 11, 2026	Fulcrum inspects and tests all three schools	On-site visual inspection and PM2.5 particulate testing
Tue–Fri, Aug 11–14, 2026	Custom Energy installs air quality sensors and brings HVAC systems back online	Real-time air quality monitoring as systems restarts
Wed, Aug 12, 2026	Fulcrum submits report	Confirms limited re-occupancy for staff and authorized contractors
Thu–Fri, Aug 13–14, 2026	HVAC filters replaced	All three schools
Mon, Aug 17, 2026	Custom Energy submits final air quality report	Confirms conditions following HVAC restart
Mon, Aug 17, 2026	Staff welcomed back	Indian Trail, Flett, and Woodridge staff and authorized contractors return
Mon–Fri, Aug 17–21, 2026	Custodial crews continue final cleaning	Cleaning continues through the week
Mon–Tue, Aug 24–25, 2026	Students and families return for launch conferences	
Wed, Aug 26, 2026	First day of school	Students return

3. Summary of Independent Assessment Findings

3.1 Visual (Independent) Inspection

Fulcrum's Certified Industrial Hygienist conducted an on-site visual inspection at all three schools on August 11, 2026. Doors and windows were confirmed closed, and District staff confirmed HVAC systems have

remained off since the start of the wildfire smoke event. The inspection identified no visible indication of unusual, settled particulate, dust, or ash on interior surfaces at any of the three sites.

3.2 Air Quality (Particulate) Testing

Fulcrum tested airborne PM_{2.5} particulate concentrations at 112 representative interior and exterior locations across the three schools using a calibrated AeroTrak handheld particulate meter, and evaluated results against the U.S. EPA Air Quality Index (AQI). Results are summarized below.

School	Location	Samples	PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³)	EPA AQI Category
Flett Middle School	Interior Average	44	6.0	Good
Flett Middle School	Exterior Rooftop Average	6	62.3	Unhealthy
Flett Middle School	Exterior Average	18	84.3	Unhealthy
Woodridge Elementary	Interior Average	36	15.7	Moderate
Woodridge Elementary	Exterior Average	18	78.7	Unhealthy
Indian Trail Elementary	Interior Average	21	13.3	Moderate
Indian Trail Elementary	Interior Annex Average	7	7.9	Good
Indian Trail Elementary	Interior Portables Average	4	30.5	Moderate
Indian Trail Elementary	Exterior Average	18	55.6	Unhealthy

Interior results fell within the Good-to-Moderate EPA AQI categories at all three schools. Exterior results were in the Unhealthy category at all three schools, which reflects the outdoor smoke conditions at the time of testing, not conditions inside the buildings.

3.3 Conclusion

Based on the visual inspection and particulate testing results, Fulcrum's Certified Industrial Hygienist identified no condition associated with wildfire smoke that would prevent limited re-occupancy of Indian Trail, Flett, and Woodridge by District staff and their authorized contractors. Fulcrum recommends that staff and authorized contractors be advised of the measured interior concentrations and AQI category, and that doors and windows remain closed except for brief entry and exit, consistent with WAC 296-820 (Washington's wildfire smoke worker protection rule, which does not require air testing for occupancy under these conditions).

4. Additional Precautionary Actions Prior to Staff Return

In addition to the conditions confirmed by Fulcrum's assessment, SPS Facilities & Operations will complete the following precautionary steps at all three schools before staff return. These actions are being taken out of an abundance of caution and are not required by the assessment's findings.

Action	Detail	Responsible Party	Target Completion
HVAC filter replacement	Replace HVAC filters at all three schools prior to restarting systems, which have been off since the start of the smoke event.	SPS Facilities & Operations / HVAC contractor	Aug 13–14, 2026
HVAC startup with live air quality monitoring	Custom Energy brings HVAC systems back online at each school while placing air quality sensors throughout the building to monitor conditions in real time as systems restart, confirming air quality remains within acceptable levels before systems are left running normally.	Custom Energy / SPS Facilities & Operations	Aug 11–14, 2026
Final air quality report	Custom Energy submits a final air quality report confirming conditions following HVAC restart.	Custom Energy	Aug 17, 2026
Continued custodial cleaning	Custodial staff will continue wiping down high-touch surfaces and common areas as a precaution, even though no unusual settled particulate was observed.	Building Custodial Staff / Custodial Supervisors	Aug 17–21, 2026
Final walkthrough sign-off	Custodial supervisor conducts a final walkthrough and logs completion in prior to staff return.	Custodial Supervisors	Prior to Aug 17, 2026

5. Staff FAQ

The following brief answers may be included with the staff notification or used by principals to field questions.

Why can staff return but not students?

Fulcrum's assessment was scoped specifically to limited re-occupancy by District staff and authorized contractors. Additional testing and assessment are recommended before the buildings reopen to students, and that work is underway under a separate timeline.

Is the air inside the building safe?

Yes. Independent testing on August 11, 2026 found interior air quality in the Good-to-Moderate range at all three schools under the EPA Air Quality Index, even while outdoor air was in the Unhealthy range at the time of testing.

Was there any ash or soot found inside?

No. Fulcrum's on-site visual inspection found no visible indication of unusual settled particulate, dust, or ash inside any of the three buildings.

Was any ash or soot found outside, on the school grounds?

No. In addition to the interior inspection, Fulcrum's inspectors and SPS custodial staff visually inspected the exterior grounds at Indian Trail, Flett, and Woodridge — including building exteriors, walkways, and outdoor areas — and found no visible ash, soot, or settled debris from the fire.

Crews testing soil in the burned neighborhoods are finding lead. Why are our schools safe when the burn area is not?

Lead contamination in the burned residential area comes from the structures themselves: many homes in the fire's path were built before 1978, when lead-based paint was still in common use, and lead was also used in older plumbing and building materials. When those homes burned completely, that lead was released into the smoke and ash and settled into the soil and debris on and around each home site. That is a byproduct of structures actually burning down.

None of our three schools burned. They were affected by smoke drifting through the area, not by fire on-site. Fulcrum's inspectors and SPS custodial staff visually inspected both the interiors and the grounds at Indian Trail, Flett, and Woodridge and found no ash, soot, or settled debris — the physical residue that would carry lead onto a property. Without that ash or debris deposit, there is no equivalent pathway for lead to have reached these buildings or their grounds.

Who do I contact with questions or concerns?

Contact your building principal or Travis Schulhauser, Chief Operations Officer, at traviss@spokaneschools.org.