

Bell Time Update

During the last contract negotiations, Seattle Public Schools (SPS) and Seattle Education Association (SEA) agreed to add 20 minutes of core instructional time to the school day starting in the 2017-18 school year. This action supports improved student achievement by bringing SPS teacher-student instructional contact time into alignment with other districts in our region.

In addition, SPS and SEA agreed to add teacher collaboration time into the work day. Common collaboration time for educators to design lessons, review assessments and monitor students' growth is one of the most effective ways to improve outcomes for all students.



Recommendations informed by stakeholders and community engagement

- In 2017-18, all K-12 students would be dismissed one hour early, one day per week in support of teacher collaboration. Every stakeholder group (families, partners, teachers and principals) preferred the one-hour a week early release over late arrival.
- The early release once a week would be on Wednesdays. Wednesday was the day preferred by principals and school staff. While Fridays were preferred by the majority of families and partners, mid-week collaboration better supports the SEA/SPS partnership goals.
- The addition of twenty minutes would be split between the morning and afternoon. Current Tier 1 families (early start schools) wanted to add the 20 minutes at the end of the day. Current Tier 2 and 3 families (late start schools) want to add the time to the beginning of the day. Splitting the difference (10/10) was the second preferred choice by all stakeholders (families, staff, and partners). This means 10 minutes would be added prior to the start of the current morning schedule and 10 minutes added to the end of the afternoon schedule.

Next Steps and Finalization of the 2017-18 School Schedules:

- Staff's recommendation is to split the additional 20 minutes, 10 minutes in the morning and 10 minutes in the afternoon, if the district continues to have three different school start times.
- The outstanding consideration is if the district can afford to move to a two tier bus system (two start times). We know this is preferred by some families, especially those currently in Tier 3, the schools with the latest start time. We estimate this change could cost up to 3.8 million dollars, and while these costs may be reduced through different transportation scenarios and may be a one-time cost depending on state funding, it will add to the \$74 million dollar budget shortfall we are facing because of the State Legislature's failure to fully fund public education.

According to letter from Seattle Public Schools on November 29, 2016:

Detailed Survey Results

Total Family Results – 11,108

Tier 1 Family Results (5683):

1. 85.5% end of the day (4859)
2. 8.2% split the time (466)
3. 5.3% beginning of the day (301)

Tier 2 and 3 Family Results (5209):

1. 47.8% beginning of the day (2489)
2. 28.4% split the time (1479)
3. 24% end of the day (1250)

In Summary, survey summary across families in all three tiers:

1. 6,165 **end** of the day
 2. 2,801 **beginning** of the day
 3. 1,945 split the time
- The most results came from Tier 1 families that wanted time added at the end of the

Proposed Solution - Move to a 2-tier system:

- Times not specified, but somewhere in the line of [8:20](#) and [8:50](#)
- Budget increase of between \$3 - \$3.8 million dollars due to transportation costs

Next Steps

“SeattlePTSAadvocacy” google group coordinating speakers for the meeting

Next School Board meeting is [on January 4, 2017 4:15 to 8:00](#) at John Stanford Center, 2445 - 3rd Avenue South. with voting [on 1/18](#). (Same time and location)

Action You Can Take

You can find more information regarding [2017-18 budget development on our Budget Office webpage](#). Decisions regarding the number of start times (three versus two) and implementation of the associated transportation standards will be influenced by the School Board’s budgeting process. The 2017-18 bell schedules will be finalized and communicated in January. To provide additional feedback to staff and the Seattle School Board please email arrivaltimes@seattleschools.org.

Material in this email comes from Seattle Public Schools on November 29, 2016 and the SeattlePTSAAdvocacy google group.

