

## **School Schedule Recommendations for 2017-18**

To improve K-12 students' academic access and achievement, the Seattle Education Association (SEA) and Seattle Public Schools (SPS) agreed to add 20 minutes of core instructional time to the school day starting in the 2017-18 school year. This action also brings our instructional hours into alignment with other districts in the region.

In addition, SEA and SPS agreed to add teacher collaboration time into the work day to support common planning time and improved student outcomes.

Thank you to the 11,000 plus family members, teachers, principals and community partners who responded to last month's survey on how to add 20 minutes to the instructional day and provided guidance on when to implement the one hour of teacher collaboration time per week.

Your input and feedback is valued.

### **Recommendations informed by stakeholders and community engagement:**

- **In 2017-18, all K-12 students will be dismissed one hour early 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 will 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 will 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), so 10 minutes will be added to the morning schedule and 10 minutes to the afternoon schedule.

### **Timeline for Finalization of the 2017-18 School Schedules:**

As mentioned, the staff 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 we 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 71M dollar budget shortfall we are

facing because of the legislature's failure to fully fund public education. [You can find more information on 2017-18 budget development here.](#)

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](mailto:arrivaltimes@seattleschools.org)