

Bell Time Analysis Task Force: Consensus Voting for Recommendation Criteria and Bell Time Options

v6.17.15

Summary:

To measure the opinion of Task Force members on specific topics, suggestions or proposals, a consensus voting model is used. The intent is to identify the degree of consensus for each topic using discrete variables of '1' through '4' (1 = strongly disagree, 4 = strongly agree) and recognize any divergence of opinion within the group.

The below are the results of the June 11 Consensus Vote by the Bell Time Analysis Task Force on the Recommendation Criteria and Options report drafted by the Task Force Recommendation Subgroup. Each question reflects one of the four criteria presented in the Executive Summary of the Recommendation Report - Student Learning, School Engagement, Health, and Equity. The last table are the results from the Task Force's vote for the most preferred bell time option from the three options presented to the community for feedback.

These results will be given to the Superintendent as part of the District's overall Bell Time Analysis Community Engagement strategy to develop a Final Recommendation to the School Board.

RESULTS		Weighted Averages			
		Overall	Community Members	City of Seattle Staff	District Staff
Recommendation Report: Executive Summary					
1	I ____ on the following wording for 'Student Learning': <i>Improvements in bell times – earlier for children, later for adolescents – support the District's commitment to excellence in education by aligning school hours with the times that students are biologically best able to learn. Seattle Public Schools can be at the vanguard of a significant movement in education: profiting from evidence-based, 21st-century knowledge of circadian physiology to enable the highest academic achievement possible for each and every student.</i> <i>Student Learning should come before all other considerations in determining school schedules. Establishing optimal start times for all students offers the District the most effective way to fulfill its pledge "to place the interests of students above all others in every decision we make; to support student learning; and to do whatever it takes to ensure that every child, regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status, language proficiency, learning style or disability, achieves to their highest level."</i>	3.45	4.00	4.00	2.88
2	I ____ on the following wording for 'School Engagement': <i>Peak learning and academic performance occur within two hours of natural wake times; thus, when school start times coincide with adolescent physiology, student engagement increases. SPS teachers of adolescents report a lack of engagement in first period due to sleep deprivation. Because teachers are best able to accomplish their goals when students are alert and cooperative, SPS can support its staff by reducing sleep deprivation in adolescents. Studies show that when secondary schools start later, tardiness decreases and overall attendance improves. A one-hour shift in start times for middle and high school students offers the promise of higher academic participation and more effective education.</i>	3.67	3.89	4.00	3.29
3	I ____ on the following wording for 'Health including safety and nutrition': <i>Optimizing start times for all students aligns with the District's core commitment to providing healthy and safe school environments. When school starts later, teens sleep more, and thus experience a decreased risk of adverse health outcomes related to chronic sleep deprivation (including obesity, anxiety, depression, poor impulse control, and drowsy driving). A shift in secondary school bell times has been shown to help lessen destructive behavior by teens. Earlier start times are unlikely to make transit to school more hazardous for younger students, who generally do not travel alone to school. Students from low-income families will be more nourished due to a projected increased participation in school meal programs. On multiple fronts, flipped start times for elementary and middle/high schools will demonstrate that the District takes seriously its obligation to ensure the well-being of all SPS students.</i>	3.40	4.00	3.50	2.75
4	I ____ on the following wording for 'Equity': <i>The task force believes in start times that give students living in poverty and students of color every opportunity to graduate prepared for college, career, and life. Physiologically-based start times for adolescents will help us provide the right conditions to improve academic achievement for every student. In Seattle, as in other U.S. cities, ethnic groups have experienced disproportionate outcomes in all success measures. These groups usually have a disproportionately lower socioeconomic status, which research shows may place them at higher risk for poor sleep. Students inequitably affected by sleep deprivation should not be further harmed by early start times.</i>	3.45	4.00	4.00	3.00

Options Presented to the Community for Feedback	Preference
No Change	2
Modified Flip	17
Extended High School Day	0
NP	3