

Welcome: School Day Task Force

Kick Off and Orientation

December 11, 2025

Virtual Makeup Session: December 18, 2025

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**Welcome:
Fred Podesta
Superintendent**

Icebreaker

- Turn and talk, share out: What brings you into this space today?

We're organizing a "School Day Task Force" to examine potential changes to the school day

School Day Task Force

Will be separately tasked with examining the following:

High School Schedule

(Number of Credits, Organization of Classes Throughout the Day, etc.)

Operational Guidelines

(Start and End Times, Open and Closed Campuses, etc.)

The challenge we are aiming to solve:

- **Graduation Progress & Persistent Gaps**

- *Graduation rates have improved but plateaued at ~86%. Equity gaps remain across student groups.*

- **Limited Flexibility in Current Schedule**

- *Schedules leave little room for recovery or exploration beyond required credits.*

- **Unequal Access to Advanced Opportunities**

- *Participation in dual credit, work-based learning, and advanced coursework varies widely. Our goal: every student graduates “Life Ready.”*

- **Student Connection & Support Needs**

- *Challenges in providing time for peer connection, clubs, and teacher support.*

- **Operational Levers for Safety & Time**

- *We must optimize time and safety to create a system that supports learning and well-being.*

Therefore, the SPS high school experience should enable...

- **Equitable access to completing Life Ready opportunities**
- **Equitable opportunities to earn credits**
- **Consistent structures for just-in-time supports** to help students succeed in courses the first time, or quickly get back on track
- **Consistent structures** to support students with high school and beyond planning
- **Equitable access to opportunities for peer connection**, such as affinity groups, extracurricular activities, clubs, and volunteer opportunities

Within a safe and nurturing environment within SPS' means

No matter what school a student attends

This work is ultimately in support of SPS's Life Ready Goal, Board Guardrails and the draft strategic plan

SPS Life-Ready Goal

Boost the percentage of graduates meeting WA State requirements including the High School and beyond plan and completing at least one postsecondary readiness activity (e.g., dual credit/STEM/CTE, work-based learning, FAFSA/WASFA, or postsecondary applications).

SPS Guardrails

- The Superintendent will **not allow a student's school assignment, family income, race or ethnicity, need, or identity to determine access to high standards, rigorous programming, high-quality teaching, and supports.**
- The Superintendent will not allow the **existence of any learning environments that do not promote physical and emotional safety.**

Key (Draft) Strategic Plan Strategies

- **1.3 - Design clear learning pathways** to ensure all students can access and demonstrate success in challenging learning experiences, with intentional investments that enable students to access "life ready" coursework for accelerated learning and support.
- Create inclusive, culturally responsive environments and programs that reflect and honor students' identities, foster strong relationships and community, and support both physical and emotional well-being.

Turn and Talk:
I wonder, I want, I worry



Process



Scope of work for the committees

High School Schedule

- Recommend required schedule parameters and areas of customization for implementation across 11 comprehensive high schools
- The recommendation could include:
 - Changes to the schedule structure
 - Strengthening practices within the school day, such as approaches to advisory, credit recovery, extra-curricular activities, etc.)

Operational Considerations

- Consider the current state and operational implications of the start and end times of the day, including impact on effective use of resources for transportation
- Discuss implications on the safe and nurturing running of school operations, including:
 - Open and closed campuses during lunch time
 - Enhanced safety measures
- The recommendation should align with the work of the high school schedule group

Recommendations from both committees should meet the following parameters:

- **Informed:** The recommendation should be guided by the diagnostic analysis, draft strategic plan, and its associated set of comprehensive priorities and strategies aligned with the Life Ready goal
- **Financially responsible:** The recommendation should be implementable with the current resources allocated to high schools – e.g. it should not require increases to staffing

The Taskforce role is to recommend a proposal with input from stakeholders, that SPS senior leadership will decide on

Role	Who	How They'll Be Engaged
Recommend a proposal for a consistent approach to the High School Day that addresses equity challenges and outlines what schools will have autonomy to decide/design	Taskforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess relevant facts and analysis Consider input from relevant parties Consider collective bargaining implications Review examples and weigh the impact of potential options against Success Criteria
Provide Input on proposed changes, leveraging their experience and expertise	The Steering Committee & Consulting Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide analysis to build a shared understanding of the key challenges Share context on what has been tried before and what was learned Bring forth examples and options for the Taskforce to iterate and build on.
Provide Input on proposed changes, leveraging their experience and expertise	The SPS Staff Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate on key design considerations based on your role Pressure test the feasibility of options on the table for decision-making, by identifying academic, budget and operational implications to plan for
Provide Input on proposed changes, leveraging their experience and expertise	Principals, teachers, and students	Through surveys, interviews and/or focus groups so they can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the most important challenge(s) to solve for Provide input on how proposed options can address those challenges Identify implementation considerations
Ultimately Decide on the final proposal	Senior Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be brought along throughout the process to understand the key recommendations
Ultimately Approve the final proposal	The Board, depending on content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be brought in at key points, as needed, for updates on the work and to engage in the final proposed recommendations

High School Scheduling Subcommittee

Role	Name	Name	Name
School Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annie Patu Jeff Lam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jolene Grimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Wheatley
Central Office Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rocky Torres-Morales Kurt Buttleman 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bev Redmond Caleb Perkins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah Pritchett-Goodman
Additional staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kinsey Hedeem Ana-Claudia Magana Danica Stannard Katie Goehring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maha Giundi Gabriella Sanchez-Stern Randol Cole Ben Krokower 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melanie Gunn Brigit Miller Melissa Gerhard Shannon Ratner
Parent/Caretakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trisha Frazier DJ Rodriguez 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LeAnne Wiles Kelsey Toppenberg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hodan F Mohamed Cheryl Brenner
Student Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naima Yusuf Timo Ng Heran Mehari 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adrian Friday Mia Casillas Rafael Brewer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senna Whittecar Bea Johnson Lyla Heath
Additional Labor Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girard Montejo-Thompson Melissa Chow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tammy Watson Shane Baguyo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth Ward-Robertson

Operations Subcommittee

Role	Name	Name	Name
School Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adrian Manriquez Sara Davis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brian Vance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ida Acton
Central Office Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fred Podesta Marni Campbell Jose Curiel Morelos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tara Davis Bev Redmond Tina Meade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kurt Buttleman Ellie Wilson-Jones
Additional staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben Stuart Vallerie Fisher Katie Barrett 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heather Sorrentino Jennifer Nedeltchev Jared Ogle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hope Schulman Misa Garmoe Dana Swenson
Parent/Caretakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nani Dacones Warlina Wheeler Maida Chen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emily Hull Danila Toscano 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jazmyne Fosha Rebecca Leslie Desi
Student Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dulce J. Vazquez Valeriano Conlan Wesley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Otis Henry Shannon Kluetz 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ella Morrison Weikko Korhonen
Additional Labor Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girard Montejo-Thompson Shelly Filippi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tammy Watson Laurie Johnson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth Ward-Robertson

The group will meet twice monthly to develop a recommendation

The group will meet as a whole then break out into subcommittees.

Subcommittees	Dec	January	February	March	April
High School Schedule Subcommittee Operations Subcommittee	Kickoff – Roles and Process	Outline key design priorities and considerations	Explore Options	Narrow down options and test budget / staffing feasibility Align on an initial recommendation	Finalize recommendation

Principal, Staff, and Student Engagement



Questions?



Closing and Next Steps

Time for Future Meetings

■ **Thursdays** at 6:00 – 7:30pm

Month	Date (Subject to Change)
January	Thursday, 1/15/26 (virtual)
	Thursday, 1/29/26 (virtual)
February	Thursday, 2/12/26 (virtual)
	Thursday, 2/26/26 (virtual)
March	Thursday, 3/12/26 (virtual)
	Thursday, 3/26/26 (virtual)
April	Thursday, 4/23/26 (in person)

Next Meeting: January 15th

We will:

- Start the whole group together and go into Break Out Rooms
- Review data to deepen our shared understanding of the challenges to solve for
- Provide input on priorities for change that will best help us address those challenges