

Welcome: School Day Task Force

Kick Off and Orientation

December 11, 2025

Virtual Makeup Session: December 18, 2025

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 analysisConsider input from relevant partiesConsider collective bargaining implicationsReview 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 challengesShare context on what has been tried before and what was learnedBring 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 rolePressure 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 forProvide input on how proposed options can address those challengesIdentify 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 PatuJeff 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-MoralesKurt Buttleman | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bev RedmondCaleb Perkins | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sarah Pritchett-Goodman |
| Additional staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Kinsey HedeenAna-Claudia MaganaDanica StannardKatie Goehring | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Maha GiundiGabriella Sanchez-SternRandol ColeBen Krokower | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Melanie GunnBrigit MillerMelissa GerhardShannon Ratner |
| Parent/Caretakers | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Trisha FrazierDJ Rodriguez | <ul style="list-style-type: none">LeAnne WilesKelsey Toppenberg | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hodan F MohamedCheryl Brenner |
| Student Representatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Naima YusufTimo NgHeran Mehari | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Adrian FridayMia CasillasRafael Brewer | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Senna WhittecarBea JohnsonLyla Heath |
| Additional Labor Representatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Girard Montejo-ThompsonMelissa Chow | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tammy WatsonShane 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