

Start and End Times Study Session

June 30, 2026



**Edmonds
School District**



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sdohobsh people and their successors the Tulalip Tribes, who since time immemorial have taken care of, hunted, fished and gathered on these lands.

We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water.

By acknowledging these homelands, we commit to working with tribal nations to further the education aims they have identified in our classrooms and schools.

Agenda

- Introduction
- Review process
 - Committee make-up and schedule
 - Review survey
 - Board communications
- Consideration of alternative
 - Why districts are different
 - What can we change if we wanted to get to three tiers

Committee Membership



13

Family/Parents

7 Elementary
6 Secondary



9

Central Office Staff



11

Certificated Staff

8 Elementary
3 Secondary



2

**High School
Students**



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Meeting Schedule

2023 - 2024 School Year

5 Meetings

- September 25, 2023
- October 30, 2023
- February 12, 2024
- March 11, 2024
- April 8, 2024

2024 - 2025 School Year

5 Meetings

- October 28, 2024
- December 2, 2024
- January 13, 2025
- February 10, 2025
- April 21, 2025

Committee met over two years



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Guiding Principles

The Mandate

Work with existing transportation tiers to recommend a reshuffling of start times.

Constraint: We cannot change tiers, purchase additional buses, or hire more drivers.

Core Values



Equity for students, staff and families



Mental health and well-being



Developmentally appropriate schedules



Safety



Fiscally responsible

And, high levels of student learning

What Did We Focus On?

9/25/23 Meeting: Purpose and Research

Reviewing the committee's purpose, intent, and end goals. Research was conducted on later start times and current transportation tiers.

10/30/23 Meeting: Strategy and Input

Planning for data-driven community input, defining common priorities, and establishing communication strategies. Discussions included survey development and childcare impacts.

2/12/24 Meeting: Priorities and Refinement

Reviewing priorities and the initial survey draft. Revisions were made based on committee recommendations to ensure effective data collection.

3/11/24 Meeting: Model Review

Analyzing the current tiered model and quadrants. Finalizing the survey questions for community distribution.

4/8/24 Meeting: Progress Update

Continued discussion and assessment of progress toward recommendation goals.

What Did We Focus On?

10/28/24 Meeting: Review & Tier Options

Reviewed spring survey and board study update. Discussed school tiering, elementary rotations, athletic impacts, and childcare. Began evaluation of tier option pros/cons.

12/2/24 Meeting: High School Start Times

Focused on athletic participation and analyzed pros/cons for four distinct later start time options for high schools.

1/13/25 Meeting: Model Expansion

Proposed and added a 5th potential option for further committee consideration.

2/10/25 Meeting: Option Narrowing

Reviewed research on earlier elementary starts. Narrowed selections to two final proposed options and began survey development.

4/21/25 Meeting: Final Recommendation

Reviewed Survey #2 results and officially determined the final option to forward as the committee's recommendation.

Board Updates and Communication

Board Study Session - Start and End Times Joint Committee Update on 9/10/24 is [here](#).

Regular business meeting report to the board on the work of the Start and End Times Joint Committee (10/14/25) is [here](#).

Summary of Surveys

3 surveys were conducted during the two years that the committee met

Survey #1

May 2024

Initial survey gathering baseline feedback from stakeholders.

Survey #2

April 2025

Targeted Feedback Groups:

- Staff
- Families
- Students

Survey #3

January 2026

Final survey assessing community preferences for when to implement proposed scenario.

Key Insight: The question about the **7:20 am start for elementary schools** was asked twice to track shifting perspectives – appearing in both **Survey #2** and **Survey #3**.

How did we get to our current system?

Over the years, decisions have been made to support our values. These include:

- providing hub transport for High Cap for equitable access
- providing transport for MAD and MW for equitable access
- providing transport for ECEAP for early investment
- Scriber campus - including VOICE, Scriber Lake HS, and Life Skills



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How did we get to our current system? (cont'd)

- With our students/delivery model, we transport 900 students (1800 routes) daily (Special Ed, MKV)
 - This is on the high end of districts
- We have a one mile walking radius which is less than some districts
- Keep to and from routes to 40 minutes or less

Making district to district comparisons is difficult

Things we have NOT been able to do

- Transportation to dual language schools for MLL students
- Transportation for zero hour classes
- Transportation to Running Start
- Transportation to in-person eLearning
- Transportation to eHeights
- Neighborhood stops for district-wide programs (MAD, MW and Challenge/Highly Capable)
- Transportation to our STEM and IB magnets

Three tiers is an option - some combination of these

- We would have to eliminate some current services (ECEAP, MAD, MW, Challenge, Scriber Lake)
- We would increase walking distance to 2 miles
- We would have to hire 20 more drivers (could be a challenge and they would have reduced hours but we believe we can)
- We would have to buy more busses
- We would have to invest 4 million in year one because transportation funding is retrospective



What staff do not believe are viable alternatives

- Public Transit
- Elimination of to and from busing
- Four tiers starting at 8:00 AM
- Arranging high school schedules to have fewer challenging classes in period 1 and 2



Options

- Continue with what we have rolled out
 - Consider tweaks within tiers (i.e. we could get to equal representation of title schools by moving one non-title school in and one Title school out of the first tier)
- Stay with the current model of early start high schools and notify families that status quo is being maintained (addition of a town hall by board members for those families who supported a change?)



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Options (cont'd)

- Other options that the board may want to consider per your emails
 - Moving all schools a little later but staying generally within the same tiers as we currently have
 - Exploring elimination of high school transportation to some/all schools
- Other options you think of tonight
- Depending on the plan
 - preparing for budget cuts in 2026-2027 to accommodate a three tier plan
 - We need a year to prepare for changes so any exploration next year moves implementation to 2028-2029



Suggestions for handling failed initiatives should we not move forward

- We need to do this without harm to those who dedicated multiple years to serving on a committee (i.e. publicly recognize their contributions, etc).
- Handling the communication in such a way that it does not place blame on process and does not imperil other initiatives
- Sensitively handle the the implications of rollback of benefit to others
- Move this work away from board meetings (i.e. return to limited comment periods)



Board Discussion and Direction

We appreciate the board members sharing your interests and values regarding start and end times and the complexity they represent.

