Frequently Asked Questions

Boundary and Enrollment Realignment

Informational Session #8

November 18, 2026

Town Hall Informational Series

30-minute information sessions

	Session #	Subject	Date	Time
☑	Session #1	School District Enrollment	September 29	6 p.m.
☑	Session #2	School District Budget	October 7	12 p.m.
☑	Session #3	School Capacity & LWSD School Construction Projects	October 14	12 p.m.
☑	Session #4	Implications for Doing Nothing	October 21	12 p.m.
☑	Session #5	Decision Making Process	October 28	12 p.m.
☑	Session #6	Supporting Students During Change	November 4	12 p.m.
☑	Session #7	Choice Schools & Specialized Programs	November 9	12 p.m.
→	**Session #8**	**Frequently Asked Questions**	**November 18**	**12 p.m.**



FAQ’s

Questions Asked

Questions Answered

The realignment website has an extensive FAQ that is continually updated and developed.

Visit the website

[Realignment FAQ - Lake Washington School District]

Has the district considered other options prior to considering school closure?

Deputy Superintendent, Scott Beebe

Options Considered First

1 - Boundary Adjustments
Moves students already in the system, doesn't increase the number of students.

2 - Program Placement
Moves students within the system similarly to boundary adjustments, same group.

3 - Reduce Portables
Move students out of portables into permanent capacity within buildings.

The FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM

- **2,300 Elementary Student Decline (through 2025-26)**
- **1,500 Future Elementary Student Additional Decline (by 2035)**
- **Permanent Capacity Variability in Schools and Regions**

What feedback is helpful for the district through this process and how can I best share it?

Deputy Superintendent, Scott Beebe

What feedback is helpful, and how can I share it?

Helpful feedback

What makes input most useful

- **Be specific.** Name the option, boundary, or detail you are responding to with suggestions for improvement.
- **Consider the whole district.** Think about how an option works for all schools and students, not just one.
- **Be constructive.** Suggest improvements or alternatives to try, not just voice concerns.
- **Look beyond “no.”** Don’t reject an option solely because it closes your school or affects your family.

Sharing it

How to get your voice heard

- **Attend an open house.** Review the scenarios and give feedback in person.
- **Give feedback early.** The committee will refine the scenarios as input comes in.
- **Stay respectful.** Constructive, courteous comments are easiest to act on.

Why did the school district build new schools in Fall 2018 and 2019?

Deputy Superintendent, Scott Beebe

Why did the school district build new schools?

1 - Rapid growth
Enrollment grew by over 7,300 students (31%) from Fall 2008 through Fall 2019.

2 - Steady yearly growth
The district was gaining the equivalent of a large elementary school every year.

3 - 6th to 2nd
Between 2014 and 2019, LWSD moved from the 6th largest district in the state to the 2nd.

4 - Overflowing portables
Over 2,600 elementary and about 800 middle school students were learning in portables.

5 - Strained learning spaces
Art, science, and music rooms became classrooms, and some classes grew larger.

6 - A plan voters backed
The 2015 facilities task force plan led to the 2016 bond for new and rebuilt schools.

The 2016 bond funded two new elementary schools, a new middle school, and three rebuilt schools: New schools Ella Baker and Clara Barton opened in Fall 2018, and Timberline Middle in Fall 2019.

Why is the F-195 and F-196 different?

Associate Superintendent, Barbara Posthumus

What is the Difference?

F195 Budget

- The school district's adopted budget plan for the year.
- Adopted by August 31st for the upcoming fiscal year
- Includes contingencies in revenues and expenditures
- Shows the budget in a consistent format for all districts in the state.

F196 Annual Financial Reports

- Reflects the actual revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year.
- Completed by October 25 for the prior fiscal year
- Includes fund balances reserves for required carryover, accounts payable and self-insurance
- Shows the financial statements in a consistent format for all districts in the state.

Is Lake Washington losing students to private and home school?

Associate Superintendent, Barbara Posthumus

Private School

- The state board of education collects enrollment information for private schools.
- Private schools are supposed to report data to the state annually, but they don't always, so comparisons year to year do not always accurately reflect enrollment.
- For private schools within the Lake Washington School District, enrollment in private schools appears to have grown by 528 students total (across all grade levels) since 2019-20.

Private School Enrollment Data within Lake Washington School District

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Lake Washington SD	3,736	2,991	3,661	3,968	3,794	3,900	4,264
Change		-745	670	307	-174	106	364

https://sbe.wa.gov/our-work/private-schools. Aggregates private schools with addresses within Lake Washington School District.

Home School by the Numbers

- Districts annually report to OSPI the number of students whose parents or guardians have filed declarations of intent to provide home-based instruction.
- Lake Washington School District data shows a bump in Fall 2020, then an overall decrease since that time that remains below the 2019-2020 pre-pandemic level.
- Over the 6-year period from 2020 to 2026, the number of home school students decreased from 415 to 369.

School Year	LWSD Registered Home School Students
2025-26	369
2024-25	376
2023-24	363
2022-23	188
2021-22	450
2020-21	562
2019-20	415

-46

Source: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/learning-alternatives/home-based-instruction

What positions did the district reduce from the central office?

Associate Superintendent, Barbara Posthumus

As part of the budget realignment process, the district has reduced over 30 positions in the central office since 2023. Below is the list of these positions:

Position	FTE
Grounds	(1.0)
Custodial Rovers	(5.0)
Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSA)	(12.5)
TOSA reallocated to grants	4.0
Technology Customer Support Manager	(1.0)
Emergency Manager	(1.0)
Public Records Analyst	1.0
Payroll Accountant	1.0
Associate Director of Sustainability	1.0
Administrative Assistants	(1.0)
TOSA – Equity Specialist	(1.0)
Administrative Professionals (Purchasing, Communications)	(0.9)
Transportation Manager	(1.0)
Transportation Supervisor	1.0
Print Center staff	(3.0)
Technology Solutions Analyst	(1.0)
Custodial Safety & Training Coordinator	1.0
Administrative Professionals (HR, Curriculum)	(1.6)
Communications Specialist	(1.0)

Position	FTE
TOSA – Professional Learning Consulting Teachers	(4.0)
Technical Support Specialist	(1.0)
Technology Support Manager	(0.4)
Principal on Special Assignment (Central office)	(1.0)
Director of HR, Talent Acquisition	(1.0)
Student Services Manager	1.0
TOSA – Student Services	(1.0)
Director of Student Services	(1.0)
Warehouse messenger	(0.3)
Associate Supt. of Human Resources	(1.0)
Executive Director of Human Resource	1.0
Executive Director of Technology	(1.0)
Director of Special Services	1.0
TOSA – Secondary Intervention Spec.	(0.5)
Assoc. Director of Student & Family Support (unfilled)	1.0
Total	**(30.2)**

The district has also reduced department budgets by over $2.0 million during the same time period.

District	Size Rank	Admin Rank	Percent
Highline	16	1	5.88%
Tacoma	4	2	5.79%
Bethel	10	3	5.76%
Kent	5	4	5.70%
Federal Way	9	5	5.59%
Bellevue	14	6	5.50%
Seattle	1	7	5.48%
Evergreen	8	8	5.45%
Spokane	3	9	5.40%
Puyallup	6	10	5.32%
Everett	11	11	5.31%
Yakima	22	12	5.30%
North Thurston	21	13	5.29%
Northshore	7	14	5.28%
Pasco	17	15	5.15%
Auburn	19	16	5.14%
Issaquah	18	17	5.14%
Edmonds	13	18	4.89%
Kennewick	15	19	4.54%
Mukilteo	20	20	4.40%
LWSD	**2**	**21**	**4.39%**
Vancouver	12	22	3.66%

Source: 2026-27 F195 Budget

Rank Order by Percent of Central Administration

Lake Washington School District has the 2nd lowest percent of central administration (21 of 22 districts) and the lowest amount peer districts in the Puget Sound region.

How is the District considering issues of equity and access?

Associate Superintendent, Pablo Ortega

Equity and Access



How will the district determine flexibility and options for student transitions?

Superintendent, Dr. Jon Holmen

Prior flexibility and transition support options

Exceptions

Time-limited stay-put options

- Students affected by a boundary change may remain at their current school for a limited time.
- Siblings may be included for the same period.
- Afterward, students attend their assigned neighborhood school.
- Limits apply for district programs and transportation.

Variance

Application-based options

- Families may apply to stay at their current school.
- Requests are approved based on space availability.
- Priority and timing are communicated as early as feasible.
- Siblings may apply; approval is not guaranteed.

Innovative Approaches

Creative ways to support transitions

- Phased or staggered transitions that move students over more than one year.
- Flexible registration options for students moving to a new school.
- Planning that helps keep siblings and families together.
- Transition supports such as school tours and orientation activities.

Will the December open houses be the committee's final recommendation?

Superintendent, Dr. Jon Holmen

No, December scenarios are not the final recommendation. Multiple scenarios will be shared.

The work represents the committee's thinking to date.

1

Share scenarios

The shares multiple scenarios for boundary and enrollment realignment prior to the Open House events.

2

Hold Open House

The community reviews the options, asks questions, and provides feedback.

3

Refine Scenarios

The committee takes that feedback and continues to refine and update the scenarios.

4

Next open house

Another open house will be scheduled for the end of January.

What should I expect at the open houses?

Superintendent, Dr. Jon Holmen

Timing and Format

Open houses are scheduled in early December

TUESDAY

Dec 8

Juanita High School Commons

TUESDAY

Dec 8

Lake Washington High School Commons

WEDNESDAY

Dec 9

Redmond High School Commons

THURSDAY

Dec 10

Eastlake High School Commons

Open house format

There will not be a formal presentation. Come anytime between 6 – 8 p.m.

What you can do

Scenarios will be available for staff and families to review, ask questions, and provide feedback.

Interactions and Engagement at Open Houses

Be respectful

Treat everyone with courtesy

- Listen to others and treat families, staff, and volunteers with courtesy.
- Use respectful language, even when you disagree.
- Wait your turn when speaking with staff and committee members.

Engage constructively

Ask, share, and listen

- Ask questions and share your perspective in one-on-one or small-group conversations.
- Keep comments focused on the options and how they affect students.
- Be open to hearing views that differ from your own.

Please avoid

Behavior that limits participation

- Interrupting, raised voices, or personal criticism of staff or other families.
- Monopolizing a staff member's time so others cannot ask questions.

Safe and Welcoming

Open houses are for listening and learning, not final decisions.

Town Hall Informational Series

30-minute information sessions

	Session #	Subject	Date	Time
☑	Session #1	School District Enrollment	September 29	6 p.m.
☑	Session #2	School District Budget	October 7	12 p.m.
☑	Session #3	School Capacity & LWSD School Construction Projects	October 14	12 p.m.
☑	Session #4	Implications for Doing Nothing	October 21	12 p.m.
☑	Session #5	Decision Making Process	October 28	12 p.m.
☑	Session #6	Supporting Students During Change	November 4	12 p.m.
☑	Session #7	Choice Schools & Specialized Programs	November 9	12 p.m.
☑	**Session #8**	**Frequently Asked Questions**	**November 18**	**12 p.m.**



Thank You!