

Snoqualmie Valley School District

High School Schedule Advisory Committee- Frequently Asked Question

1. What is the charge of the High School Schedule Advisory Committee (HSSAC)?
The HSSAC is charged to study the high school daily schedule to accommodate programming related to the following: College and career readiness, New Core 24 requirements, Equal access for all students, Interventions for students, Student/teacher collaboration, Small Learning Communities (SLC), and Project-based learning. Recommendations must: maintain the integrity of the Freshman Campus Model, and include financial considerations and a timeline for implementation.
2. Who is on the schedule advisory committee?
The HSSAC includes approximately 30 Mount Si High School students, parents, teachers, non-teaching staff, and administrators.
3. When did the HSSAC begin this work and how often do they meet?
The HSSAC began meeting in March of 2016 and met four times last year. This fall, the HSSAC has the following seven meetings scheduled: September 8, October 6, October 20, October 27, November 3, November 17, and December 1. Additional meetings will be scheduled as needed.
4. What is the timeline for a decision on a new student schedule?
The HSSAC will most likely present recommendation(s) in the winter of 2017 (January or February).
5. Is it possible that a new schedule will result in a longer school day?
Currently the HSSAC is working under the premise that the length of school day will remain unchanged.
6. Will school start and /or end times change?
Currently the HSSAC is working under the premise that start and/or end times will remain unchanged. However, a separate process to evaluate start and/or end times may be initiated at a later date.
7. Will the early release Friday end time change?
Currently the HSSAC is working under the premise that Friday early release schedule will not change and school will continue to dismiss at 12:19 PM.
8. Why change schedules at all?
The implementation of Washington State Law, RCW 28A.230.090, now requires that high school students (starting with the class of 2019 and beyond) earn 24 credits to graduate from high school. As a result of this increase from 22 credits to 24 credits, the current six period day at Mount Si High School may no longer meet the needs of many students. Therefore, a variety of student schedule options, that will allow more credit-earning opportunities, are being studied to address this change in graduation requirements.
9. Will changing the type of schedule potentially increase graduation requirements for students?
Yes. High schools that have changed to 7 period schedules, 8 period schedules or trimester schedules typically have found it necessary to make adjustments to best meet student needs.

10. When will Mount Si change to new schedule?

The timeline for implementation will depend on the HSSAC's recommendation. For example, a small adjustment to the daily schedule could be more easily implemented. However, a more significant schedule change, such as moving to a 90-minute block schedule, may require more time to implement, since many staff would need significant professional development to help make the shift.

11. What is the decision-making process?

Once the HSSAC develops a preliminary recommendation (via a consensus model), the committee will bring the recommendation to the Mount Si High School staff for consensus. If it is approved by the staff, the recommendation will be presented to the Superintendent.

12. What are some of the schedule options being considered?

- *6 period day with variations*
- *8 period block – 4 x 4 by semester*
- *8 period block – 4 x 4 alternating days*
- *Traditional 7 period day schedule*
- *7 period day with alternating block schedule*
- *5 period trimesters*

13. Will a new schedule affect class size?

Depending on the schedule chosen, small changes in class sizes are likely to occur.

14. Could a new schedule result in increased planning time for teachers?

Yes. Currently, teachers have approximately 55 minutes per day of planning time. Some of the schedules under consideration could alter this considerably. If the increase is substantial, some of the time might be utilized to support interventions, for departmental collaboration, or to support other building identified needs.

15. Will teachers be given support to adjust to a new schedule?

Yes. The District will support teachers and counselors by providing planning and professional development to ensure the new schedule is implemented successfully.

16. Will the new schedule include advisories?

Yes. In order to meet the conditions of the committee's charge, any schedule option recommended will include some form of "advisory" program. The frequency and model for the advisory program is still to be determined.