

## High School Schedule Change

What are some things we should be planning for as we make the transition to the new high school schedule?

11 September 2018



477 People



360 Thoughts



7833 Ratings

## Here are 10 thoughts that received the highest star ratings

### Our best teachers are speaking out against this.

I trust our experienced, board-certified teachers who oppose this system because they want to know their students by name, strength & need.

4.8 ★★★★★ (26 👤)  
Ranked #1 of 10



Susan Enfield

I, too, appreciate the insights of our teachers. The schedule change committee, which included teachers and parents, recommended the trimester system as a good option. I am confident we can address the concerns raised by some teachers by following the committee's recommendations for implementation.

### There are a lot of negative thoughts about this change by parents and students

The change management may need more attention than planned to address all of the concerns

4.7 ★★★★★ (9 👤)  
Ranked #2 of 10



Susan Enfield

We appreciate people sharing their concerns so that we can address them. We have a team working on a plan to address all the components of this shift. Renton School District is implementing the trimester system this year, so we will learn from them, as well.

### Students already lose a lot of learning time over the summer. This is exponentially larger for students with low SES. Trimesters widen this gap.

Research shows students need regular time material. If students only have math trimesters 1 and 2, they will be away from math for over 6 months.

4.6 ★★★★★ (33 👤)  
Ranked #3 of 10

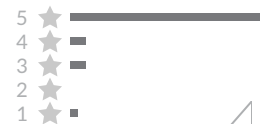


Susan Enfield

This is a legitimate concern. In order to reduce gaps in learning time, we will make some courses year-long.

### There are profound implications on students being able to access Running Start, IB, AP, Music and Business programs.

4.6 ★★★★★ (27 👤)  
Ranked #4 of 10



Susan Enfield

The trimester schedule will actually give students more opportunities for electives, music and business classes while also taking AP/IB. Music and band programs will be year-long at all schools. Access to Running Start will not be affected.

**As a school counselor, I see that my job will be squeezed into focusing on schedules because they will change every 60 days. This leaves minimal time**

for building relationships and doing the part of our job that actually addresses why students are not passing classes. This is not best for students!

4.6 ★★★★★ (26 👤)  
Ranked #5 of 10



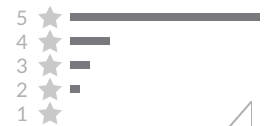
Susan Enfield

I understand this concern. As we plan for this change, we will need to consider what support we need to build in to make sure students' social-emotional needs are met. We will reach out to counselors in Renton to see how they have addressed this.

**Did you try to get teacher opinion on this?**

I'm tired of hearing how many of my daughter's teachers are new to Highline, and how many quit each year. Do you even try to keep employees happy?

4.6 ★★★★★ (25 👤)  
Ranked #6 of 10



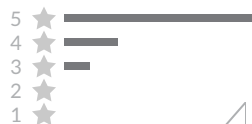
Susan Enfield

I value teachers' input. Teachers were on the committee that chose tri as a top option, and many teachers participated in the community input meetings we held in 2017. Teacher retention is very important to us. We have made this a priority and our turnover rate has decreased.

**I'd like to know how this will work for the IB program since you have the end of course reports and test.**

I have a daughter going to Aviation HS and a daughter going to MRHS. How are you going to adapt this trimester for the different schools.

4.6 ★★★★★ (10 👤)  
Ranked #7 of 10



Susan Enfield

Staff at each school will make adjustments that fit their school. Starting this fall, we will work with MRHS teachers to ensure we maintain a rigorous IB program with a variety of course offerings.

**It feels like the final decision was made with little community input**

Trust needs to be rebuilt with the board and administration - the last word heard was that it would be revisited later and then a decision was made

4.6 ★★★★★ (10 👤)  
Ranked #8 of 10



Susan Enfield

Trust and community input are critical. We actually spent over 2 years studying and considering input before making this decision. That included family & staff feedback in community meetings held in 2017, then adding parents to the committee that recommended tri as a top option.

### Why are you pretending to ask for our opinions again?

Obviously, teachers, students and parents strongly disagree with trimesters, so clearly the voices of the main people affected do not matter at all!

4.6 ★★★★★ (7)

Ranked #9 of 10



Susan Enfield

The purpose of this Thoughtexchange was to hear your concerns so we can address them, and we appreciate all those who shared their thoughts. There are strong opinions on all the options considered. Unfortunately no option will please everyone, but we will work to address the concerns raised.

### It will be extremely difficult for students to receive the same quality of instruction in 2 trimesters as they will in a year-long class

Some classes that are normally taught over a full year will be shortened to 2 trimesters, severely limiting the amount of time for instruction.

4.5 ★★★★★ (27)

Ranked #10 of 10



Susan Enfield

Teachers will need to learn to use instructional time differently, and we will spend the next two years supporting them in that. Also, remember that class periods are longer and less time will be spent passing between classes.