

CHARGE, DELIVERABLES, AND REQUIRED CRITERIA

CHARGE

ISC is charged with investigating, analyzing, and making a consensus decision on a new Palo Alto High School bell schedule that will optimize student learning and well-being.

DELIVERABLES

- Schedule focus groups and meetings with students, families, and staff to facilitate two-way communication with ISC (*dates TBD*)
- Reach a consensus decision on a new schedule by no later than February 20, 2018
- Produce a written report on the new schedule documenting the process and rationale by no later than March 6, 2018
- Present the new schedule to the PAUSD Superintendent and Board of Education for final approval by no later than March, 2018

(Note: The new schedule may be implemented in either the 2018-19 or the 2019-20 school year, depending on how much it differs from the current schedule, and how much preparation time will be required to implement it successfully)

REQUIRED CRITERIA

Any schedule selected by ISC must:

- Be supported by current research and evidence about student learning and well-being
- Enable a reasonable pace and homework load for students and teachers by minimizing potential stress and anxiety linked to the structure of the school day
- Dedicate the time needed to deliver curriculum for social-emotional learning (SEL) and college/career planning. *(Note: ISC's charge does not include making specific recommendations about the content of SEL and/or college/career planning)*
- Include block class periods of sufficient length to support project-based learning, authentic assessment, and instruction aligned with the Common Core State Standards
- At least maintain current weekly time for teacher collaboration (PLCs) to align and enhance curriculum, instruction, and assessment
- Be consistent with the contract language of the collective bargaining agreements of all school employees
- Meet state requirements, including requirements for total instructional minutes.
- Start classes no earlier than 8:15 a.m. and offer no 0 period
- Include a brunch period of no less than 15 minutes
- Offer instructional time that will be reasonably comparable at both high schools and a calendar in sync with Gunn's academic eligibility reports (e.g., no trimesters)