

Students bemoan reduction in classes as LWSD plans high school schedule changes

High school has always been viewed as an opportunity to expand your horizons and try new things. But with Lake Washington School District (LWSD) proposing a [schedule change](#) from seven to six periods starting in the 2025 to 2026 school year, students are complaining about limited learning opportunities.

Superintendent Dr. Jon Holmen [released a statement](#) on Oct. 1 announcing the change of seven to six period schedules for the following school year. This plan was put into action to cut costs, impacting all LWSD high schools.

Holmen introduced options for summer course opportunities, before and after-school periods, and other selections for students who want to recoup the lost period outside of regular school day. Based on sample schedules issued by the district, they are considering schedules where students have all six classes daily, in contrast to current “block” periods where each class is taken three times a week. Details of the school day structure remain unclear.

While it may seem relieving to have fewer periods, many high school students are disappointed and frustrated with this change. Over 4,000 people, including students, have signed a [petition](#) to prevent this change.

One issue that students raised was the lack of classes to explore electives and Advanced Placement (AP) classes, which they felt will impact career preparation.

“High school is all about exploring our interests and with the new six period schedule...We only have one class next year to actually explore what we want to do for our career,” said Aadhya Srinivasan, a freshman at Eastlake High School.

Students noted that seven periods over four years allows them to achieve up to 28 credits: four more credits than the state’s graduation requirement. Six period schedules yield only 24 credits, meaning that students must pass every class to graduate.

This schedule change also disrupts high school plans for students. Arnav Kaja, an Eastlake sophomore, is one of many students who already planned a list of courses that would not only meet graduation requirements, but also allow him to explore his interests.

“The removal of two periods in my high school career will probably lead to me dropping at least one AP and another class I was interested in,” Kaja said.

Music and art electives will likely be dropped by many students. Others will have to arrive at school earlier to participate in these programs before school starts.

“Because kids seek to take more academic classes for college, they’ll prioritize keeping their academic classes over their art ones like orchestra or band. I know I’m personally going to have to drop orchestra for French, because French leads to an AP,” said Vivian Gu, a sophomore who currently participates in Eastlake’s orchestra program. “It’s unfortunate. I really enjoy orchestra [and] the community and the music.”

However, this schedule could benefit student athletes who prefer a lighter course load. Paxton Jacobsen is an Eastlake sophomore who participates in several school sports.

“I think it will make it so student athletes won’t have as much stress because of less homework since everyday after school we have two hours of practice or a game,” Jacobsen said. “It will allow people to spend less time on homework and less stress for that.”

It is clear that most students are not benefiting from this schedule change. Not only will it limit students’ freedom in exploring their interests, but it will also have a significant impact on their college applications and preparation for future careers. LWSD will likely face significant opposition by pushing through something that will negatively impact the students that they have promised to serve.