

Hello, I'm Superintendent of Schools Kenny Salim.

Thank you for engaging in our discussion about how we might use school schedules to enhance learning for all of our students in Cambridge Public Schools.

CPS is fortunate to have many strengths and assets. Our schools offer a rich array of experiences, some of which aren't available anywhere else. We have wonderful students, highly engaged families, a talented teaching faculty, and a demonstrated commitment from the city to invest in public education.

Our district has a longstanding and unapologetic commitment to building schools that embrace diversity and create a more equitable and socially just world. We have a clear District Plan and a shared vision of *rigorous, joyful, and culturally responsive learning + personalized support for all students*.

At the same time, what the past few years of research, feedback sessions, and interviews have shown us, is that no matter how ambitious we are in our agenda for improvement, our comparatively short and inflexible schedules are proving to be an obstacle to success.

There is much we can do within our current constraints to improve the quality of learning time in CPS. However, to truly accomplish all that we are aspiring to do, we believe we need more time.

We are proposing a longer school day - by about 45 minutes to increase learning time for students and provide greater opportunity for professional time so our educators can design the best learning for every child. The proposal includes two options for how we might structure the time for our students and teachers. Our proposal also outlines what the impact would be on teachers, specific schools, community partners, and families.

This is a work in progress and YOUR input will contribute to our final proposal to the Cambridge School Committee. The earliest a change in schedules would happen is at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

There are several steps that need to occur before any proposal would be put in place -- including collective bargaining with the Cambridge Education Association, our teachers union. We would also initiate a planning period that would continue through next school year.

There are many important decisions that would be made during the planning process, and your input would be welcomed as school leaders develop the specific plan for each school.

Once again, thank you so much for taking the time to learn about our draft proposal.

I am excited about the potential of this change to advance equity and move us closer to our vision of rigorous, joyful and culturally responsive learning for all students so that every child in CPS can realize their full potential.