



## Plan for Evergreen and Tyee for 2017-18

Over the course of last year, there was a collaborative process to envision the future of Evergreen and Tyee campuses. Each campus had a Core Planning Team of staff, students, families and community members who met over ten months, and there were additional opportunities for community input.

Through this process we learned that our students and families highly value the close relationships at small schools, *and* they want and need a wider range of learning opportunities: more AP offerings, more electives, and more athletic programs.

We believe our students should not have to choose between strong relationships and broader learning opportunities, and we are committed to providing both.

The work of the Core Planning Teams to establish goals and core strategies provides a strong foundation to build on. What became clear through the process is that neither traditional high school of the past nor an autonomous small school model allows us to fully realize the goals and strategies established by the Core Planning Teams. That means we are going to have to build something new—something that retains the emphasis on knowing students well AND provides them with the opportunities they want and need.

The Core Planning Team asked for more time to plan school structure, and that is part of the plan going forward. There will be a design process this fall that involves students, families, and staff. It is the role of educators, working with students, to determine how to deliver the experiences students are asking for.

It is the job of district leadership to put the right conditions in place. The plan, starting next fall, is:

- Evergreen will be Evergreen High School with one principal. Tyee will be Tyee High School with one principal.
- Each school will have small learning structures that staff and students will design, with input from families and the Core Planning Team. The small learning structures could have the same themes as the current small schools or something different. That is up to the design teams.

This decision is based on input gathered from students, families, and staff in the core planning process and in our Thoughtexchange online conversation last spring.

This is not about turning back the clock to the old Evergreen and Tyee. The goal is to create a new way of doing things that can be a model for other high schools to learn from. This is a new chapter and an opportunity to build on what we have and also provide students with the opportunities they need to be truly prepared for their next steps after high school.

Here is an overview of the design process:

1. **Design team** will meet four times between October and December. Two meetings will be during the school day. Design teams will include:
  - a. Teachers from each small school
  - b. School administrators
  - c. Students from each small school
  - d. Central office staff
2. **Core Planning Team** will be involved as thought partners to provide feedback on design team's work.
3. There will be multiple opportunities and venues for students to give input and feedback
  - a. Survey of all students
  - b. Lunch and learns with smaller groups of students
  - c. Focus groups
4. Community/family listening sessions will occur in October and November to assist the design team in its work.
5. Staff time will be necessary for the design team to get input and feedback as well as sharing progress on the plan. Julie Hunter will coordinate with administration how we can utilize some staff meeting or PCT time for these conversations.

Point of contact for questions or inquiries: Julie Hunter, Director of Secondary Initiatives  
[Julie.hunter@highlineschools.org](mailto:Julie.hunter@highlineschools.org)