



Special Ad Hoc Committee – Start & End Times

Horseheads CSD

March 9, 2026



Public Update

Special Ad Hoc Committee's Review of School Start and End Times

The Horseheads Central School District Special Ad Hoc Committee held its second meeting on March 9, 2026, and its first meeting, facilitated by Leadership Solutions Advisers, began a structured review of the district's current school start and end times.

Leadership Solutions Advisers is a team of experienced educational consultants and former New York State educators – serving in roles including teachers, principals, curriculum leaders, district administrators, superintendents, BOCES District Superintendents, and New York State Education Department Senior Deputy Commissioner. The firm has been engaged through a BOCES CoSer to support the committee's work by providing a structured and disciplined facilitation process to help the committee examine current conditions and community perspectives.

During the meeting, facilitators emphasized that the committee's guiding focus is identifying the best possible educational experiences for students. The committee's purpose is to gather information and stakeholder input to help determine whether any future adjustments to start and end times may be feasible, practical, and desirable for the district.

Committee members also participated in a ThoughtExchange activity to identify key factors that should guide the work moving forward. Responses highlighted several shared priorities, including:

- Keeping students' needs and well being at the center of the conversation
- Ensuring broad community input so recommendations reflect diverse perspectives
- Balancing the greatest benefit for the majority of students while considering vulnerable populations
- Maintaining transparent communication and trust with the community
- Evaluating impacts across all grade levels and learning from other districts' experiences

These early insights reinforce the importance of gathering additional feedback from students, families, staff, and community members.

In the coming weeks, the district will expand opportunities for community engagement through a ThoughtExchange conversation and districtwide survey. These tools will allow stakeholders to share perspectives and help identify common themes that can inform the committee's work.

The committee will continue meeting throughout March and April, with insights ultimately helping to inform future discussion by district leadership and the Board of Education.