



FAQ

EAST & WEST HIGH SCHOOL CONFIGURATION REVIEW

Q: What is the current configuration of East and West High Schools?

A: Although the district has two high schools, East and West, they share one building. Each high school has different students, teachers and sports teams, but they share common space such as the auditorium, music department, gymnasium complex, and natatorium. Non-core courses also share common classrooms space. In athletics, both East and West participate in the Wisconsin Little Ten. Mascots for the schools are the West Bend West Spartans and the West Bend East Suns. Each school has about 1,200 students. The administration for both high schools is shared and consists of one principal, along with five assistant principals. From 1888-1969, students attended West Bend High School, and were known as the Badgers. In 1970, the twin high school campus for East and West High Schools opened.

Q: Why is the configuration of the high school under review?

A: In August of this year, the West Bend School Board started a conversation to review the current configuration of the two high schools.

Q: Has this been reviewed before?

A: To answer this question, let's review the history:

1967: Special Meeting of the Electorate. Superintendent Peckinpaugh announces a plan which includes building twin high schools on the corner of Decorah and Hwy. G. Peckinpaugh's twin high school plan includes: twice the participation opportunities, capital cost savings by shared facilities, increased academic opportunities, and the ability to add two additional high schools to the south bringing total campus enrollment to 5,000.

1968: Referendum passes 2,705 to 1,443

1970: Twin high schools open

1980: Citizens Athletic Committee forms in response to parent complaints. Recommends coach evaluations, parent meetings for each team, citizen/parent committee as liaison for each team, seeks coaches for teaching positions.

1988: Climate study

1990-1991: Citizen Athletic Study Committee forms to recommend combining athletic programs.

1992: Advisory referendum on combining programs loses 5,592-3,743 (April 7, 1992)

Board votes 4-3 against combining (May 26, 1992)

2008: High School Research Study Committee meets from May-October

December 1, 2008: Presentation of committee's findings to School Board

Survey of community: A community survey showed of the 358 responses, 217 or 60.6 percent prefer the two school format. Those voting for one school total 122, or 34.7 Percent with 19 making no preference.

The survey respondents said that athletic participation is so far the top strength of the two high school system. Disciplinary consistency is the top weakness.

Q: When would this take place?

A: The current suggestion is the 2015-2016 School Year.

Q: What is the process and timeline?

There will be four structured listening sessions for the administration to present the facts and options for consideration. Attendees will then break out into small discussion groups and provide feedback which will be shared with the School Board by September 29. Feedback sessions are scheduled for:

September 16 – 6:30 p.m. – Silverbrook Intermediate School (cafeteria)

September 17 – 7:30 a.m. – Education Service Center (Board room)

September 25th – 7:30 a.m. – Education Service Center (Board room)

September 29th – 6:30 p.m.– Silverbrook Intermediate School (cafeteria)

- Public feedback about the issue will be heard at the regularly scheduled board meeting on September 22 and October 6. Board meetings are held at the Education Service Center, 735 S. Main St., at 6:30 p.m. Each resident who signs up for Public Participation will have two minutes to address the Board.
- The board plans to debate and vote on the issue at the October 6 meeting.
- [An online survey is available.](#)
- Postcards were mailed to district residents with information about the process.
- Source information is available on the [district's website.](#)

Q: Will students get to be part of the process?

A: Students can attend one of the four focus groups and complete the survey. They are also welcome to participate in the Public Participation portion of the agenda at both the September 22 and October 6 School Board meetings. Both meetings start at 6:30 p.m. at the Education Service Center, 735 S. Main St., For Public Participation, each resident must sign up to address the board by filling out a card, which is available at the School Board meeting. Each resident is given two minutes to address the board.

Q: Would West Bend be one of the largest high schools in Wisconsin if it's combined?

A: Yes. West Bend would be the largest high school if East and West were combined, with enrollment of 2,317. Arrowhead High School would be second, with 2,266 and Stevens Point would be third, with 2,214.

Q: Does this decrease opportunities for students?

A: Athletics, National Honor Society organizations and forensics for both East and West High Schools would be affected.

Q: Would students lose scholarship opportunities if the high school was combined as one high school?

Yes, listed below are the academic scholarships that would not be available for students any longer if the high schools were combined.

Scholarships:

1 Wisconsin Academic - \$9,000

1 Moraine Park High School Senior Technical - \$400

1 Washington County Educators every 5 years - \$500

3 Herb Kohl's to be sent on to the next level for consideration

Every 3 / 4 years the Herb Kohl allows one of the schools to select a student who has overcome great difficulty and has continued to achieve academically - \$1,000

2 Prudential Spirit of Community Award to be sent on to the next level for consideration

2 Brady Corporation Scholarships for a random drawing at a luncheon (1 Male/1 Female)

3 Byrd Scholarships to be sent to the state level for consideration

Leadership Awards:

1 Principal's Leadership Award

1 DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Good Citizenship Award

2 American Legion Awards (1 Male/1 Female)

Monthly Lioness

2 Pick Outstanding Athletes

WIAA Scholar Athletes w/ combined athletic teams

Q: What is the cost of combining the high schools?

A: The District would use coaching salary savings to pay for uniforms, new materials, branding, etc. Dollars from salary and budget savings stay in athletics.

In 2008, it was estimated that the transition costs would include:

Uniform (one-time cost)	\$152,000
Logo transitioning in building	\$ 25,000
Estimated one-time expense total	
Estimated 1 time expense total:	\$177,200

Q: Does this have any academic impact?

A: Combining the high schools doesn't have any academic impact for our students.

Q: Do students take courses only at East or West?

A: Students may cross over for classes depending on enrollments. Electives are all combined. When scheduling students, attempts are made to have only "East" or "West" sections for core classes such as English 9, English 10, English 11, Global Studies, Algebra and Geometry, especially for our younger students.

Q: How would combining the high schools affect athletic opportunities for high school students?

At the freshmen level, participation would not be affected. It may affect participation at the JV level and would affect varsity level. For example, if combined, there would be 11 starters on offense in football, versus 22 we now have for two teams for football. The intent would be to have two freshmen levels in the majority of sports where needed to ensure participation, one JV level, one varsity level and a varsity reserve level as needed.

Combining the high schools does not affect middle school programs. The feeder system to high school sports has been transitioned to community leagues that the district allows to use the fields etc. to continue to support opportunities for the students. This design can be used at the middle school level, but community sponsored teams cannot be used for WIAA sports at the high school level.

The long range plan would be to have an Intramural program for students who do not wish to engage interscholastically.

Q: Who can I contact to share my opinion?

A: You can contact members of the School Board to share your opinion.

Q: Would combining the high schools affect our athletic conference?

A: Potentially. Both East and West High Schools asked for conference realignment, regardless of our future configuration.

Q: How would this increase athletic competition?

A: No data to support or not support.

Q: Would combining the high schools have an impact on co-curriculars? What co-curricular activities are combined?

A: The only impact is that National Honor Society would now have one instead of two groups of officers. There would be no impact on forensics because we can enter as many students as we desire into different categories at competitions. There is no cap.

We have separate National Honor Societies and forensics teams. The other 40 co-curricular activities are combined.

Academic Decathlon	Forensics	Musical
Bluegrass Strings	French Club	National Honor Society
Brass Band	Future Business Leaders of America	Pit Orchestra
Brass, Wind & Fire	Gay-Straight Alliance	Pops Strings
Bots IQ	German Club	PULSE
Cello Choir	Hand Bell Ringers	ROV
Chamber Music – Band	H.E.R.O/ Culinary Arts	S.E.E.D. (Environmental Group)
Chamber Music – Orchestra	Interact	Skills USA
Chess Club	Key Club	SMART Team
Current Newspaper	Madrigal Dinner	Spanish Honor Society
Debate	Madrigal Strings	String Choir
Dolphins	Mock Trial	Student Council
Drama	Model United Nations	Yearbook

