

Priest Lake K-12 Proposal

This proposal outlines a blended secondary learning program at Priest Lake Elementary (PLE) designed to support approximately 40–50 students in grades 7–12. The goal is to expand student opportunities while increasing enrollment stability and long-term sustainability at PLE.

Overview

Students will participate in a hybrid model that combines Edmentum online coursework at PLE with in-person classes, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and extracurricular opportunities at Priest River Lamanna High School (PRLHS/JH). Students will be divided into two cohorts of approximately 20–25 students and will rotate between locations daily.

Instructional Design

Students will be enrolled in at least four Edmentum courses per semester and will be supported by a certified teacher at PLE. This teacher will monitor progress, provide academic support, and coordinate with high school staff. In addition, students will attend approximately three class periods per day at PRLHS/JH, ensuring continued access to core instruction, electives, and CTE programs.

Daily Schedule

Option A (HS → Lake): Students attend periods 1–3 at PRLHS/JH (7:45–10:47), travel to PLE (10:50–11:25), then complete Edmentum coursework and lunch from approximately 12:00–3:10.

Option B (Lake → HS): Students begin at PLE (7:45–10:00), travel to PRLHS/JH (10:10–10:45), and attend periods 4–7 with lunch built into the schedule through the end of the school day (3:25).

Transportation

A single midday shuttle bus will transport students between PLE and PRLHS/JH. The route is approximately 35 minutes each way and is aligned to allow students to transition between campuses without missing full class periods. This approach minimizes additional transportation costs while maintaining consistency.

Financial Impact

Assuming 40–50 students with a 90% attendance rate, the program is projected to generate between \$250,000 and \$350,000 annually. Estimated costs, including a 1.0 FTE teacher, Edmentum licenses, and transportation adjustments, range from \$150,000 to \$180,000. This results in a projected net positive impact of approximately \$70,000 to \$120,000 annually.

- New legislation from the state might make online students receive less funding. I have a call to the state to find out more information.

Cost of a full time Teacher to Oversee Program (Assume Top of Salary Schedule):

\$110,000 (Maximum Cost)

Cost of Edmentum Licenses:

\$6,850 Approximately (per Edmentum quote)

Cost of Transportation for 1 midday bus to and from JH/HS:

\$12,000

Cost of Food for Approximately 40 Students:

\$20,000 Approximately

Total Cost to District:

\$148,000

Benefits

For students, the program provides flexibility, increased access to CTE and electives, and a supportive environment for credit recovery or alternative pathways. For PLE, it increases enrollment and strengthens long-term viability while maximizing use of existing space. For the district, it offers a cost-effective, revenue-positive solution that improves engagement and graduation outcomes.

Conclusion

This is a simple way to give students more opportunities while helping keep Priest Lake Elementary strong as a staple of the community. It works within our current schedule, uses the resources we already have, and provides clear benefits for our students, WBCSD, and the Community of Priest Lake as a whole both academically and financially.