

MSDWT – School Start Times 2019-2020

Community Presentation



MSDWT – School Start Times

Potential Changes Effective: 2019-2020

- ▣ Why is the District considering a change?
- ▣ Why 2019 – 2020
- ▣ Preliminary Stakeholder Feedback
- ▣ Limitations
- ▣ Options to Consider
- ▣ Challenges
- ▣ Final Recommendation Date
- ▣ Opportunities for Stakeholder Feedback



Why is the District considering a change?

Research supports later school start times for adolescent students.

- ▣ To put our students in the best position to be successful based on research
- ▣ Early research from Minnesota Supporting Later HS Start Times *
- ▣ American Association of Pediatric Medicine – Several Research Articles Supporting Later Start Times*
- ▣ Neuroscience and Brain Research – Ongoing Research to Support Later Start Times *

***Articles available on District Website Under Facilities Planning**



Why 2019-2020

- Bus transportation routing will need to change due to 2019-2020 Enrollment Rebalancing;
- Two major changes combined in one year (Enrollment Rebalancing /School Hours) rather than consecutive years of major changes;
- Time needed to revise teacher before and after school meetings and responsibilities.



Requirements when considering school times -

Through analysis of stakeholder feedback as well as before and after school requirements of our schools, we have developed the following guiding principals or requirements when developing school start/end times:

- ▣ Attempt to start the first school time at approximately 7:30 AM (Earliest pick up would be 6:20 AM or slightly earlier);
- ▣ Last school end time no later than 4:25 PM (Extra-curricular, Late Activity Bus, and Supervision requirements restrict the time from ending later);
- ▣ Minimum of fifty (50) minutes needed between start and end times of each busing tier (this will allow for safe and on-time arrival and delivery times).



Options to Consider

Option 1 Current Hours

Times are approximate. If adopted, final times may minimally vary from the times presented here.

High School – **7:20 am – 2:35 pm**

Elementary – **8:30 am – 3:30 pm**

Middle School – **9:20 am – 4:20 pm**

Option 2 Potential Hours for 2019-2020

Times are approximate. If adopted, final times may minimally vary from the times presented here.

Elementary - **7:30 am – 2:30 pm**

Earliest Pick- approximately 6:20 am – 6:30 am

Latest Drop Off approximately 3:30 pm – 3:40 pm

High School – **8:20 am – 3:35 pm**

Earliest Pick-Up approximately 7:10 am – 7:20 am

Latest Drop Off approximately 4:35 pm – 4:45 pm

Middle School - **9:25 am – 4:25 pm**

Earliest Pick-Up approximately 8:15 am – 9:25 am

Latest Drop Off approximately 5:25 pm – 5:35 pm

Stakeholder Feedback

- Community Stakeholder Survey - Spring/Summer 2017 with over 1000 Survey Respondents;
- November/December 2017 Stakeholder Survey – Over 2500 views and over 1400 Respondents;
- Discussion with Parents, Teacher Representatives, Administrators, and School Board;
- For the past 9 months, the MSDWT School Board has been extremely involved in conversations regarding school start/end times. The Board asked that the administration include this topic at the same time we address Enrollment Rebalancing.



Feedback from Stakeholders Preferring Current School Times

- Concerns regarding early pick up times for elementary students;
- Concerns regarding childcare options;
- Concerns with HS athletes getting home an hour later;
- Questions about students holding after school jobs;
- Concerns about Middle School dismissing even later than the current dismiss



Feedback from Stakeholders Preferring New School Times

- ▣ Persuaded by the research;
- ▣ Option 2 allows for High School students to continue to hold jobs;
- ▣ Similar to neighboring districts' High School times;
- ▣ Would like to have students early and end early when students are fresh (elementary teacher comment);
- ▣ Believe high school students will perform better academically.



Challenges and Considerations

- ❑ Pick up times for Elementary - (Darkness – Earliest stops could be 6:20 AM or earlier);
- ❑ Families' Needs (childcare, activities, younger siblings arriving home without older siblings home);
- ❑ Emerging Research - (Regarding Elementary also benefiting from later times);
- ❑ Transportation Costs - (Prohibits the Middle School day from being placed in the middle Tier);
- ❑ Unable to move to a two tier busing system - (Due to the required costs associated with increasing the bus fleet);
- ❑ The lengths of our student days vary by level, making the creation of transportation windows between tiers challenging;



Challenges and Considerations

- ❑ High School Activities (travel to away athletic and club competitions, availability of buses to transport students to away activities prohibits High School from being in the third tier);
- ❑ Late Activity Bus Schedules and Driver Availability – (Creates challenges with High School being in the third tier);
- ❑ Constraints of time needed between busing tiers (Minimum of fifty minutes needed between tiers to maintain on time arrival and pick up times) **The lack of time between our current busing tiers is making on time arrival difficult;**
- ❑ Very little margin for error with Elementary in the first tier - (Especially in the morning - If HS is late in the AM, students are late for credit bearing classes. - All Drivers (in Option 2) would be needed first thing in the morning – Potentially no drivers available to cover routes if substitutes are needed;



Challenges and Considerations

- After School Child Care – (Unknown if the number of bus riders and parent car drop offs will increase or decrease – Unknown as to how a new school time will influence attendance at AYS;
- Our current times are not consistent with the research that supports later school start times for adolescent students (MS/HS;
- Change is Difficult.



Opportunities for Stakeholder Feedback

- ▣ Visit www.msdt.k12.in.us and Click on Facilities Planning and follow the links.
- ▣ Contact:

Dr. Jon Milleman, Assistant Superintendent

jmilleman@msdt.k12.in.us



Final Recommendation Date

- Information provided at the February 28th School Board Meeting;
- Information and presentation of pending recommendation at the April 25th School Board Meeting.

Our goal is to present a recommendation to the School Board on May 9, 2018



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Thank you.

