

Hillsborough County Public Schools FACT SHEET

Proposed 2018–19 bell schedule based on community input

Key points

Every student deserves a full day, but right now, our existing bell schedule does not allow enough time for buses to complete their routes between schools. Because of that, last year, more than 12,000 students were late to school *every day* – and it was not their fault.

At our School Board’s request, our district first asked for community input to create possible options, then launched a Bell Schedule Survey that asked the public to choose one of those six schedule options. Nearly 57,000 people responded to choose one of the six options.

The proposed schedule below is based on the option that was preferred by the most parents, students, and staff who took the survey. This is the general schedule that our district would use for the 2018–2019 school year if the School Board approves this schedule on October 17.

School Type	Start Time	End Time	Early Release Mondays
Elementary Schools	7:40	1:55	12:55
Elementary Magnet Schools	8:45	3:00	2:00
High Schools	8:30	3:25	2:25
Middle and High Magnet Schools	8:30	3:25	2:25
Middle Schools	9:25	4:20	3:20

NOTE: Several schools will have changes to this schedule because of their individual needs. A proposed list of every school’s start and end times is on our district’s website: sdhc.k12.fl.us.

Public input

The results came from a substantial process to gather input from the public. Nearly 57,000 people took the district’s Bell Schedule Survey in English or Spanish and chose a preferred bell schedule.

<p>Our district also gathered input through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Its Bell Schedule Simulator, which collected bell schedule options from 1,800 respondents• Three public meetings in our community• Forums with students, parents, and other groups of stakeholders• Thousands of social media comments• Public comments at board meetings	<p>The proposed bell schedule is based on survey “Option A,” which was the consensus first choice of nearly all groups of respondents, including parents, students, and staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Option A was chosen by a wide margin over the other five options• Option A was preferred by 30% of respondents; the next-most-popular option was chosen by 18% of respondents
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More planning time for teachers

The proposed schedule would allow more planning time for middle and high school teachers.

Before-school and after-school care available

Before-school and after-school care will be offered – at a low cost – at every elementary and middle school where it is needed.

High school would start at 8:30 a.m.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends high schools start at 8:30 or later.

Plus, studies have found high school students who get enough sleep and start at 8:30 or later:

- Have improved attendance and graduation rates, which is one of our district's strategic goals
- Have fewer fatal car crashes
- Contribute to a better-educated and higher-earning workforce

Columbia University found 16-year-olds who got less than six hours of sleep a night were 21% more likely to be obese five years later.

A later high school start time has been supported by the president of our teachers' union and by many of the students in our high school forums as we gathered public input.

Elementary school would start at 7:40 a.m.

As our district's staff studies how we could implement the public's top choice, we definitely recognize that the early start time for elementary schools will cause concern for some parents.

However, 48 of our elementary and K-8 schools already start at 7:45 or earlier, right now.

That means about one-third of our schools with elementary-age students already use a schedule like this, because it meets the needs of those schools.

Also, in general, magnet school buses would pick up students *later* than they do now – a significant benefit to many magnet students, who currently have the earliest pickup times.

Elementary school campuses would open earlier than they do now, which could help parents who need to get to work – and our district will be offering before-school care at a low cost, which gives parents more flexibility to use other transportation options.

Find answers to frequently asked questions and share your feedback at sdhc.k12.fl.us