

Pragmatic School Start Time Proposals – 2018

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BPS has talked about changing grade configurations before revisiting school start times. The possible changes seem to include:

- Eliminating middle schools.
- Keeping early learning centers, elementary schools (K-6 and K-8) and high schools (7-12 and 9-12)

I have created two proposals that work with these possible changes in grade configurations. I use the following school day lengths for these proposals:

- 6 hours for elementary schools without extended learning time
- 6 hours and 40 minutes for elementary schools with extended learning time
- 6 hours and 30 minutes for high schools

These proposals are pragmatic. They are intended as win-win solutions for families and BPS.

Less Afternoon Traffic Proposal

Morning School Start Time			Afternoon School End Time		
Schools with extended learning time	High Schools	Schools without extended learning time	Schools without extended learning time	High Schools	Schools with extended learning time
7:30 (Early Learning Centers also)		7:50	1:50		2:10
8:20	8:30	8:40	2:40	3:00	3:00
9:10		9:30	3:30		3:50 (Early Learning Centers also)

Bus ride lengths

Morning times are all 50 minutes

Afternoon times are 50 minutes as well. 30, and 60 minutes routes would also be possible.

Later Morning Proposal

Morning School Start Time	Afternoon School End Time		
Schools without extended learning time, and schools with extended learning time	Schools without extended learning time	High Schools	Schools with extended learning time
7:40 (Early Learning Centers also)	1:40		2:20
8:30 (High Schools also)	2:30	3:00	3:10
9:20	3:20		4:00 (Early Learning Centers also)

Possible bus ride lengths

Morning times are all 50 minutes

Afternoon times are 50 minutes as well. 30, 40 and 60 minutes routes would also be possible.

Plusses

- The first start times happen later which parents prefer. In the first proposal the 7:15 time is removed, and the first start times change to 7:30 and 7:40. In the second proposal the 7:15 and 7:30 times are both removed and the first start time changes to 7:40.
- Both proposals keep an eye on avoiding rush hour traffic for buses in the afternoon.
- These proposals are very easy to make small changes to. If one school changes it's time, it only affects two other schools. This allows for a great deal of fine tuning for equity, various priorities, and school and parent satisfaction.
- The way this proposal is set up makes it possible for schools with and without early learning time to work equally well. And if the amount of either type of school increases or decreases it won't affect the whole system in a large way.
- School end times are at 4:00 or earlier
- High schools would start at 8:30 and end at 3:00. If some high schools wanted other times, that would be possible too.
- These times work well with Charter Schools. Since Charters often have longer school days it would be possible in several cases to have one bus provide service for 3 BPS schools and then one Charter school in the afternoon.

Please let me know if there are issues that need tweaking in these proposals.

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