

School Start Time Proposal by Lisa Jeanne and Bea Graf

Many parents want school start and end times that make it easy to work from 9 to 5. This issue is addressed by having the latest school start times moved to earlier times. For this proposal, I list the times that a bus drops off a student. If a student is dropped off at 9:05 then they start school 15 minutes later at 9:20. All students would have school drop off times before or at 9:05. For efficiency, most buses have three routes in the morning. In the afternoon the routes have less schools per bus. The current 9:15 bus drop off times (and school start times of 9:30) were moved to 8:55 or 9:05 (for school start times of 9:10 and 9:20). Many middle school and high school students were given later school start times so that they could get more sleep. Most of these times are at 8:05 so students will still have time for extracurricular activities and/or jobs.

Schools would fit into 5 groups, and for the most part have 5 start times. There is a bigger range of times for non-BPS schools but some use these same times.

50 and 60 minutes Routes Option

7:05 7:00 and 7:10	BPS: Filled with schools currently in the 7:00-7:15 times 1 Charter at 7:00 and two at 7:10	1/6 of riders
7:15 mix of times	BPS: Filled with ELCs , & schools currently with 7:15 times Many Non-BPS schools	1/6 of riders
8:05 mix of times	BPS: filled mainly with schools currently at the 8:15 time, middle school students and high school students Non-BPS schools	2/6 of riders
8:55 mix of times	BPS: Schools that currently have the 9:15 time, and some middle school and high school students Non-BPS schools	1/6 of riders
9:05 mix of times	BPS: Schools that currently have the 9:15 time Non-BPS schools	1/6 of riders

Most of the schools would have their start times changed by 15 minutes at the most. The exception is Middle and High School students that have been moved by an hour. If families want their schools to change their start times they could request a change. If a school in another time is willing to do a trade then changes could be made. There would need to be an eye kept on keeping the percentages in each group close to 2/6s to allow for the most efficiency in the bus routes however.

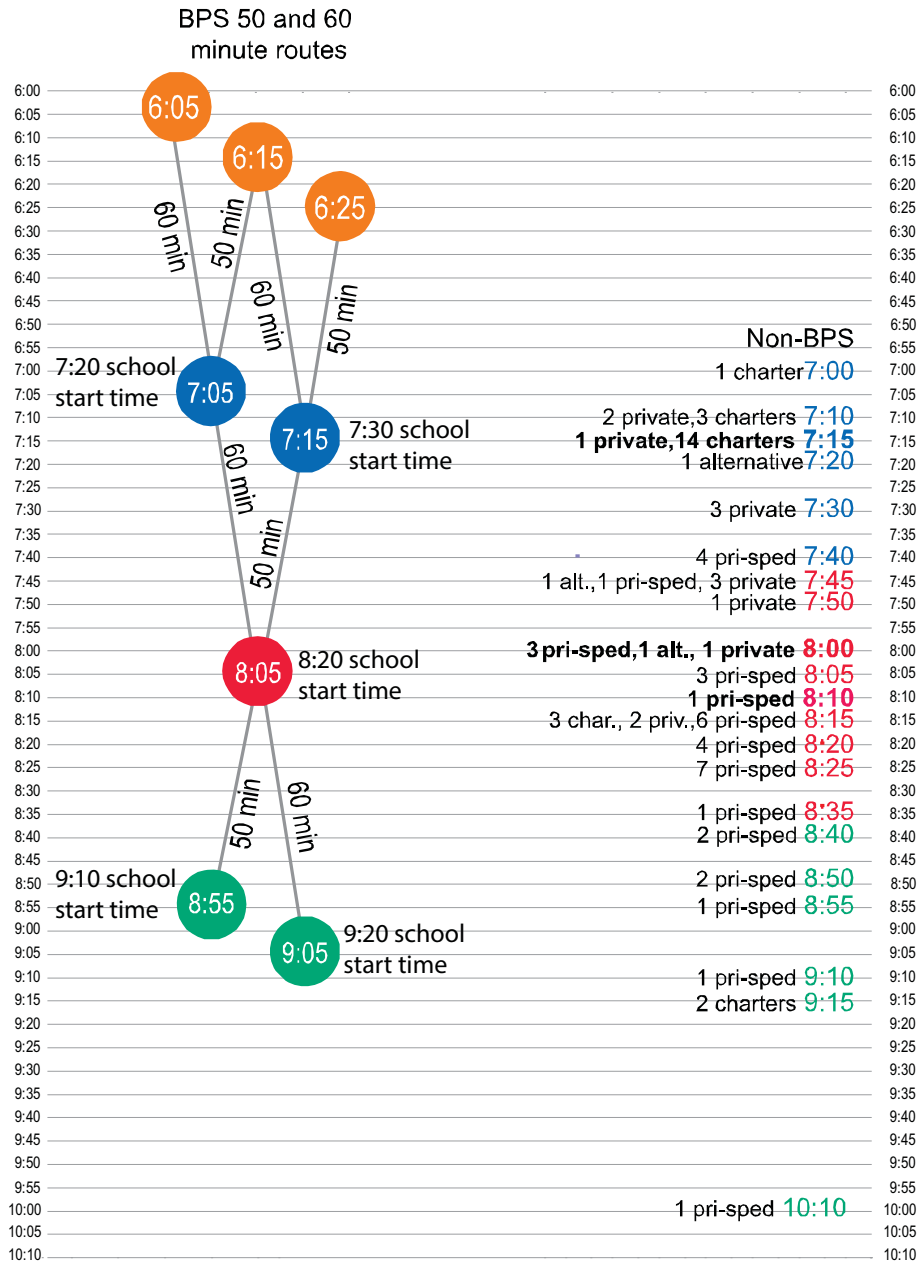
This proposal is flexible in that it allows for longer routes where needed. In addition, the 7:05 and 7:15 times could be a good place for schools with preschool seats.

I think this version works well because:

- It keeps the popular 7:15 time for bus drop off and school start time of 7:30
- The 8:05 time works well for moving up high school and middle school students that have early start times to a later time without impacting afterschool activities.
- 5/6 of the bus drop off times are at 8:55 or sooner (with school start times at 9:10 or earlier)
- The changes are small for most families with young children and not too disruptive.
- It works well with non-BPS schools. Non BPS schools could adopt the BPS times for more consistency.
- The 8:05 times links up well with all of the other BPS times and some of the non-BPS times
- The earliest and latest times make it possible to have three routes in the afternoon in places. Without those times, many buses would only be able to have two routes.
- Moving the last and middle times a little earlier makes it possible to avoid rush hour traffic a little more in the afternoon.

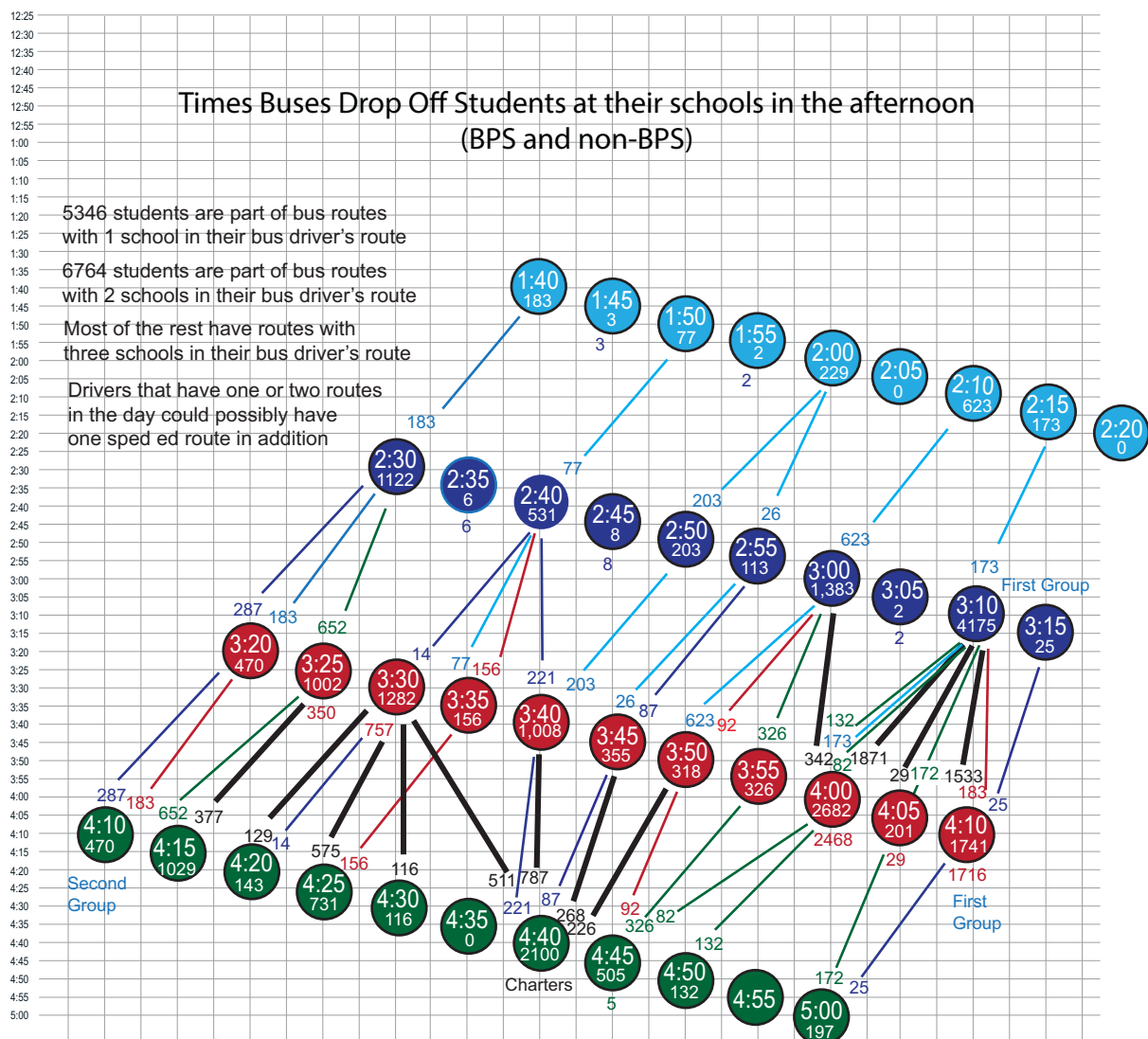
When working on this issue I choose different start times for all the schools that BPS provides busing for. I attempted for the early, middle and late times to each have one third of all the riders on buses. I largely kept school start times at times close to what now exists for a minimal change for parents. I picked a few schools with bigger populations that were somewhat open to changing their start times, and moved them to other times. I also tried to avoid putting the schools with longer days in the last time. It might make sense as well to keep the schools with longer commutes away from the earliest times and latest times. I think community involvement would be best for determining which schools go with which times. The afternoon times graph show the results of my attempts. I welcome feedback. I would love to see other proposals and ideas. The more suggestions the better so that parents are happy with the times that their kids go to school.

Times Buses Drop Off Students at their schools in the morning



The 7:15 time is used by many Charter schools.
 Charters and private schools could pair with BPS well.
 Charters and private school with start times around 8:00
 could be asked to change their start times to 8:05

Depending on the location of schools to one
 another different routes would be available.
 Routes would start with a blue time, then go to
 a red time and end with a green end time.



I tried to keep routes between 50 and 65 minutes.
 Route times for both morning and afternoons include time that students are not on buses.

Each circle lists a time that students are dropped off at a school and the amount of students at that time. This is color coated to show routes between different start times. I didn't go into detail with school locations so some of these routes might not work. Also all schools were lumped together so Pri-sp'ed students (which tend to be outside of Boston and small amount of students) might change the routes a bit.

The numbers under the circles show students that are not part of a route. Perhaps a driver could have a trip to a pri-sp'ed school and also to one of these groups of students that are not part of a linked bus route.

After creating this proposal I was given some feedback. It was suggested that the 8:05 bus drop off time (and 8:20 school start time) was too early for highschool students. An easy fix would be to have a 8:15 bus drop off time (and 8:30 school start time). For this to work the 8:15 schools would have to pair with the 7:15 and 9:05 schools.

Also I could share the school start times I chose with anyone who is interested. I showed my ideas to BPS already.

The reason BPS is working on this issue is to save money on transportation that can be reinvested in the schools. Below is my wish list of how that money could be spent.

Changing how Schools are Funded

1. First have schools receive money based on student weighted funding.
2. Second have each school receive money to hire a nurse, librarian, social worker, substitute teacher and a psychologist. Currently these positions are funded by schools if there are enough funds in the school's budget. If a school has low enrollment they get less money and often have to cut one or more of these positions. This approach would add more equity between schools in a clear and simple way.
3. Third initiatives would be funded with the remaining money.

Ideas for New Initiatives

1. Right now if a school has a need to strengthen a safety plan no extra funds are available for the school. Although money for support can come from student weighted funding this doesn't help if a family doesn't agree to an IEP. If there was a fund set up in the BPS safety department that schools could tap into quickly when needed, that would be helpful for addressing safety issues. One use of this fund would be to add an additional teacher or para to a classroom. Another use of this fund could be to pay for bus monitors.
2. Money for therapy for students that have undergone trauma and/or abuse. Even help with an insurance copay would be useful.
3. Support for students in abusive situations. Having guidelines to help students who are in unsafe living arrangements get into safe environments.

Restoring Full Funding

1. Restoring the earlier funding for students with autism would be appreciated.

I welcome emails about this process:

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