

Late Start Days at District 99 - FAQ

In order to create a more consistent schedule, and one that better promotes student learning, District 99 is changing the Late Start Day schedule for the 2017-18 school year. Next school year, starting Monday, September 11, every Monday will be a Late Start Day that begins at 9:20 a.m. Please click [HERE](#) to see the schedule, which was approved by the Board of Education on June 19, 2017.

1. Why did we choose 9:20 a.m. instead of starting earlier or later?

The 9:20 a.m. start time is the earliest we can begin the school day given our current joint bus transportation contract with Districts 58 and 68. We cannot afford to lose the additional instructional time it would take to start the school day at 10 a.m. or later on a weekly basis.

2. What bell schedule will we follow?

With a 9:20 a.m. start time, class periods will be 38 minutes, which is 8 minutes longer than periods for 10 a.m. start days. We heard from both teachers and students they would appreciate longer class periods on Late Start Days. See bell schedule, below:

District 99 9:20 a.m. Start Day Bell Schedule				
Period	Start	End	Period Length	Prior Passing Period
Period 0	8:37 AM	9:15 AM	38	0
Period 1	9:20 AM	9:58 AM	38	0
Period 2	10:03 AM	10:44 AM	41	5
Period 3	10:49 AM	11:27 AM	38	5
Period 4a	11:32 AM	11:52 AM	20	5
Period 4b	11:56 AM	12:16 PM	20	4
Period 5a	12:21 PM	12:41 PM	20	5
Period 5b	12:45 PM	1:05 PM	20	4
Period 6a	1:10 PM	1:30 PM	20	5
Period 6b	1:34 PM	1:54 PM	20	4
Period 7	1:59 PM	2:37 PM	38	5
Period 8	2:42 PM	3:20 PM	38	5

3. Why did we choose Monday as the Late Start Day of the week?

The majority of non-attendance days and holidays fall on a Monday; there are eight Mondays in our 2017-18 calendar when school is not in session. This makes selecting Mondays as the Late Start Day of the week a practical way to implement a weekly Late Start format, as it limits the increase in the number of total Late Start Days.

Although many students appreciate a mid-week Wednesday break, we feel the increased number of Late Start Days overall will contribute to a more balanced schedule for students. We will continue to evaluate this change throughout next year to determine if Monday remains the appropriate day in future years.

4. How much instructional time will be lost (and teacher meeting time gained) with the proposed new schedule?

The 2016-17 school year has 14 Late Start Days and two early dismissal days scheduled for Professional Learning Community time, for a total of 35 hours.

For 2017-18, we are proposing 30 Late Start Days to be used for Professional Learning Community time, as well as department meeting time, professional growth, committee work and curriculum development. We are proposing eliminating the two early dismissal days. This schedule equates to 42 hours--an increase of 2 hours over 2016-17.

The proposed schedule adheres to the Regional Office of Education requirements of 300 minutes of instruction per day averaged over a period of 175 days.

5. What are the benefits of a weekly Late Start Day format?

In addition to creating a more consistent and predictable calendar, we believe increasing the amount of time teachers have to meet in teams, and to share and develop strategies for student learning, will result in higher quality instruction. In addition, the weekly format provides a way to formulate timely responses to address individual student needs that emerge throughout the school year. We also anticipate a reduced need for and cost of substitute teachers, as time for professional development will be built into the new schedule.

6. Do other high schools have Late Start Days built into their schedules?

Yes. Many other high schools in our area schedule Late Start Days, which are also used for teacher development and meeting time during the school year.

7. What can be done for working parents who find this change causes transportation issues?

We understand that for many families, transportation on Late Start Days is difficult. We are currently creating options so that students living inside the 1.5 mile radius, who may not currently qualify for bus transportation, will be eligible to ride the bus on Late Start days. This will ease the burden of transportation for parents on these days.

8. Why not have early dismissal days versus Late Start Days?

We feel that an early dismissal, after students have all gathered together in one place, may lead to more potential issues in the community in the afternoon, compared to the morning where students start the day separated.

9. What input did you collect from students and families about this change?

We issued a survey on April 27, 2017 to collect input from current and incoming students and families. We received 2,048 responses from students (58%) and parents (42%). Most respondents (80%) saw the primary benefit of this change to be a more consistent schedule. In addition, 73% of all respondents saw no issues to changing to a weekly format; 14% anticipated issues and 13% weren't sure. Also, 73% of respondents predicted no issues with switching the day of the week to Monday; 16% anticipated issues and 11% weren't sure. Finally, 12% of respondents saw no benefit to weekly Late Start Days or Late Start Days in general.

9. How will future Late Start Days be structured at District 99?

We will evaluate the effectiveness and outcomes of the new schedule in the spring of 2018, and make adjustments as needed for the 2018-19 school year.

Do you have a question you'd like us to address? Please email your question to communications@csd99.org and we will add it to this FAQ.