

Tredyffrin/Easttown School District

2019-2020 School Start Times Survey

Open Comments by Theme

The open comment summaries are grouped by theme in which five or more people submitted similar comments. Comments that are duplicates of other questions asked on the survey are not listed.

Additional Comments - Parents

Benefits of 19-20 Start Time Option

- Increased safety for teenage and parent drivers in the morning/increased safety for high school students who wait for AM bus in the dark (30)
- Starting 25-30 minutes later will not make enough of a difference/start time should be later (20)
- More time to get ready in the morning/less rushing/less morning stress/will have time for breakfast (20)
- More sleep for parents/siblings/entire family (14)
- There are no benefits (14)
- Later start times are supported by research (10)
- Improved family relationships/higher quality family time (10)
- Aligns better with parents' work schedules/less child care costs (8)
- Benefits high school/middle school students but not necessarily elementary school students (8)
- Less traffic/more students will take the bus if school starts later/parents will not need to drive students to school so they get more sleep (7)

Challenges of 19-20 School Start Time Option

- There are no challenges/any issues can be managed (53)
- Starting 25-30 minutes later will not make enough difference in sleep/start time should be later (18)
- Elementary school students will be getting off the bus at dusk in winter (9)
- Flip the elementary and high school start times (11)
- Benefits high school/middle school students but not necessarily elementary school students (6)
- Conflicts with preschool drop off times (5)
- Elementary school students will be hungry/tired at end of the day (5)

Additional Comments Overall

- Flip the elementary and high school start times (116)
- Starting 25-30 minutes later will not make enough difference in sleep/make start times later (45)
- Reconfigure bussing/reduce long bus rides/increase transportation efficiency/add buses so students spend less time on busses even if it means raising taxes (28)
- Later start times benefit high school/middle school students but not necessarily elementary school students (28)
- The benefits of the new start time option outweigh the challenges (18)
- The decision is being rushed (16)
- Students are not getting enough sleep due to too much homework/academic pressure (15)

Additional Comments – Parents, continued

- ACP will still need to begin at 7:00 AM even if elementary school starts later/concerns about ACP capacity (9)
- High school/middle school students currently wait for the bus/walk to bus stop in the dark (7)
- Reconfigure or compress school day/have year-round school/use block scheduling or split schedules/have free periods at end of day (7)
- The challenges of the new start time option outweigh the benefits (6)
- Consider more before school clubs at elementary/middle schools during early drop off (6)
- More research is needed before a decision is made (6)
- Concerns about extra childcare costs if school starts later (6)
- Start all or some levels at the same time (5)
- Current start times contribute to traffic congestions since parents drive students to school so students can sleep later (5)
- Later start times would allow time for breakfast/less rushing in the morning (5)
- Parents should manage sleep schedules at home (5)

Additional Comments – Middle/High School Students

Benefits of 19-20 Start Time Option

- Less stress/improved attitude/improved mood (53)
- Students would not be as rushed in the morning/there would be more time to prepare for school in the morning/students would not miss the bus as often/students would have time for breakfast (30)
- There would be more time for homework in the morning before school/more time for homework at night since students could go to bed later (17)
- Less chance of student car accidents/increased safety in the morning (7)
- Students would participate more in morning classes (6)
- Starting 25-30 minutes later will not make enough of a difference (6)

Challenges of 19-20 School Start Time Option

- Starting 25-30 minutes later will not make enough difference in sleep (11)
- Students will not have enough time after school to play/free time/have fun/socialize with friends (10)
- Students are not getting enough sleep due to too much homework/academic pressure/stress (6)

Additional Comments, Overall

- Starting 30 minutes later will not make enough difference in sleep (42)
- Students are not getting enough sleep due to too much homework/stress/academic pressure (33)
- Flip the elementary and high school start times (27)
- Make the school day shorter/rework the school day/reduce class time by few minutes each period so the day can start later and end at the current time (27)
- Students will stay up later and play video games (5)
- Reduced daylight for students: high school students currently have to wait for the bus in the dark/elementary students could get home at dusk during winter with new start times (5)

Additional Comments - Staff

Benefits of 19-20 Start Time Option

- Benefits high school/middle school students but not necessarily elementary school students (5)

Challenges of 19-20 School Start Time Option

- Increased traffic (10)
- Elementary students lose focus later in the day (10)

Additional Comments, Overall

- Flip the elementary and high school start times (23)
- Information is needed on the contractual start and end times of the teacher day (20)
- Later start times benefit high school/middle school students but not necessarily elementary school students (18)
- The decision is being rushed/needs more study (11)
- Starting 25-30 minutes later will not make enough difference in sleep/make start times later (9)
- Parents should manage sleep schedules at home (7)
- Consider reducing instructional time by a few minutes each period/use school day more efficiently/consider scheduled 2-hour delays for students periodically (6)
- Student sleep is impacted by academic stress/too many AP courses/too much homework (5)

Teachers Only – Comments on how 19-20 start time option would impact students and teachers' work

- More student participation and better focus for students in first period/more effective teaching in first period (17)
- Starting 25-30 minutes later will not make enough difference in sleep/make start times later (7)
- No impact (7)