



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, every Monday after Labor Day will be a Late Start Day that begins at 9:30 a.m. Please [click here](#) to see the schedule, which is pending Board of Education and Regional Office of Education approval.

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%) see the primary benefit of this change to be a more consistent schedule. In addition, 73% of all respondents see no issues to changing to a weekly format; 14% anticipate issues and 13% aren't sure. Also, 73% of respondents predict no issues with switching the day of the week to Monday; 16% anticipate issues and 11% aren't sure. Finally, 12% of respondents see no benefit to weekly Late Start Days or Late Start Days in general.

The survey included options to share written feedback. The following are questions and answers based on issues raised:

1. Why did we choose 9:30 a.m. instead of starting earlier or later?

The 9:30 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 9:30 a.m. start time, class periods will be 36 minutes, which is 6 minutes longer than periods for 10 a.m. start days. We heard from both teachers and students that they would appreciate longer class periods on Late Start Days.

See bell schedule, below:

District 99 9:30 a.m. Start Day Bell Schedule				
Period	Start	End	Period Length	Prior Passing Period
Period 0	8:49 AM	9:25 AM	36	0
Period 1	9:30 AM	10:06 AM	36	0
Period 2	10:11 AM	10:50 AM	39	5
Period 3	10:55 AM	11:31 AM	36	5
Period 4a	11:36 AM	11:56 AM	20	5
Period 4b	12:00 PM	12:20 PM	20	4
Period 5a	12:25 PM	12:45 PM	20	5
Period 5b	12:49 PM	1:09 PM	20	4
Period 6a	1:14 PM	1:34 PM	20	5
Period 6b	1:38 PM	1:58 PM	20	4
Period 7	2:03 PM	2:39 PM	36	5
Period 8	2:44 PM	3:20 PM	36	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.

Some respondents reported appreciation for the mid-week Wednesday break; however, we feel that the increased number of Late Start Days overall will contribute towards 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 28 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 two early dismissal days. This schedule equates to 42 hours--an increase of 7 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 sharing and developing 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 investigating options for bus service for students living inside the 1.5 mile radius who may not currently qualify for bus transportation, to ease the burden of transportation on these days. We plan on having information available on this in the coming weeks.

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 they start the day separated.

9. What will District 99 do next with this proposal?

On May 15, District 99 administration recommended to the Board of Education that the district implement the new weekly Late Start Day format for the 2017-18 school year. The Board will vote to approve this schedule on June 19, 2017.

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 continue to update this FAQ and post it to the [district website calendar page](#).