

## Definitions for the 2007 Transportation Task Force

- Slide
- Flip
- Tweak
- Hybrid

**Slide:** This involves an equal change to all existing bell schedules. If a ten minute slide was considered, schools that now start at 7:20 and dismiss at 2:05, would start at 7:30 and dismiss at 2:15; schools that now start at 9:15 and dismiss at 3:55, would start at 9:25 and dismiss at 4:05; etc. Slide changes could be in 5 minute increments and could total whatever change is acceptable to the task force. Slide changes could be implemented in total or incrementally over a period of school years, i.e., ten minutes in year one, ten more minutes in year two, etc.

**Flip:** This involves fundamentally changing the bell schedule so that high schools are no longer on the first bell. Under this change, high school start times would be established, most likely on the second bell, and middle and elementary schools would be placed on the first and third bells. Past scenarios that have been developed have had middle schools on the first bell along with some elementary schools, and remaining elementary schools on the third bell. Other scenarios have had elementary schools on the first bell and middle and some elementary schools on the third bell. It is important to note that middle schools by themselves do not require sufficient buses to be an entire tier on the bell schedule so they must be combined with some high or elementary schools.

**Tweak:** There are a number of issues with current transportation services. These include the times at which students are picked up and/or dropped off (too early and too late in the day), the length of bus runs (both in boundary and out of boundary), and the numbers of students on each bus (too crowded). Tweaking the system would establish service level parameters that should be met by transportation services. The service parameters that should be considered include:

- Length of time students ride the bus
- The earliest time of day students should be picked up (by school level – elementary, middle, and high)
- The latest time of day students should be picked up (by school level)
- The earliest students should be dropped off at schools prior to the start of school

**Hybrid:** This involves some combination of sliding, tweaking, and perhaps flipping. For example, if school start times were slid back by 20 minutes, a service parameter might be that all elementary students have to be dropped off no later than 5:00 p.m. The caveat about flipping as a part of hybrid is that it would be very difficult, if not ultimately impossible, to change the bell schedules for some schools but not others. Because so many schools serve students from outside their boundary, there is a profound ripple effect to any changes in bell schedules. Other than changes to the start/end times of schools of either end of the bell schedule window, i.e., the earliest schools starting earlier and the latest schools starting later, it is not possible to change the schedules of certain schools without impacting the bells of many other schools.