

FCPS High School Bell Time Scenarios

Summary of Comments from Advisory Group and School Board

October 14, 2005

Area	Suggestions or Recommendations	Stakeholder	Issues / Discussion
HS Start Times	Prefer school to start 1 hour to 1:15 later. Suggest start time between 8:15 and 8:35.	School Board	See <i>Scenario B</i> (Marshall and <i>Scenario C</i> (Chantilly))
HS Start Times	Establish a second Tier consisting of high schools and secondary schools to begin 8:35-8:45 am	SLEEP	Not modeled in original scenarios; Scenario C (Chantilly) came closest with 8:25 AM HS start time.
HS Start Times	General consensus is that the Tier 2 start times (8:10 - 8:15) is doable.	Administration – High School Principals Assoc	See <i>Scenario B</i>
HS Start Times	Review other school district programs to comment on the concept of having the first, second and third classes of the day staggered at different times for different classes	Federation Education Committee	Start times for specific classes not part of project scope.
MS Start Times	Difficult supporting middle schools start time earlier than present. Where middle schools currently start later than high schools, the time differential should remain constant with any high school change. Those with combination bus runs/ shuttles should offset around 20 to 30 minutes.	School Board	(1) May impact resource requirements because of necessity to balance fleet deployment among 3 tiers. (2) Modifies Assumption #2 re: high schools and middle schools on common routes
MS Start Times	Fairfax County Council of PTAs has a position strongly in favor of the later start times for teens. Feel that it is just as important for middle school students to get the extra time in the morning, as it is for the high school students.	Federation of Civic Associations	Restricting middle schools from earlier tier may create fleet resource imbalance among tiers and result in higher costs. This was not defined as an assumption or constraint during first phase of project, although was mentioned as a concern by several committee members at that time.
ES Start Times	Concern for elementary students waiting for buses or being dropped off in the dark. If twilight times constraint cannot be met, later high school start time option is unacceptable.	Elementary Principals	Original scenarios assume this constraint. Elementary bus routes that exceed time constraint are assumed to be "split" (adding an additional bus and segmenting one route into two routes) in order to shorten route times to meet this constraint. Earliest ES pick-up time was assumed to be 7:00 AM.
ES Start Times	Consensus that elementary students should not be waiting at stops before 7:15 AM, and schools not before 7:35 AM. Board prefers elementary schools start closer to 8 AM.	School Board	Changed constraint will have significant impact on final scenario models. Initial models assumed earliest pick-up to be 7:00 AM, which is the approximate latest civil twilight for the year.

Area	Suggestions or Recommendations	Stakeholder	Issues / Discussion
ES Start Times	Establish a first ES Tier consisting of 2/3 of the elementary schools to begin 7:50-8 am Establish a third Tier consisting of 1/3 of the elementary schools and middle schools, to begin 9:10-9:20 am	SLEEP	Actual number of schools in any given tier dependent upon number of buses deployed to each school in that tier. 3 tiers should be balanced to achieve maximum efficiency.
Transportation System	Establish a start time window of 7:50 to 9:20 am; 45 minutes between three tiers.	SLEEP	7:50 "floor" may have significant impact on fleet resources needed in last two tiers, given the number of bus routes that exceed 40 – 45 minutes
Transportation System	As part of Phase II, strategically reengineer bus schedules start around core, general education programs. Special programs then could be added on in the most efficient manner possible. Due to major rearrangement of bell times, simply shifting the bus routes from the old system to the new bell times would lead to transportation chaos and inefficiency.	SLEEP	Assuming viable alternative is selected in current project, next step requires system-wide bus route reengineering in simulation module of <i>MapNet</i> routing & planning software.
Transportation System	Revise the entire transportation system and education programs to meet the needs of everyone. For example, use school-based programs for Gifted & Talented students to reduce the number bused students.	Federation Education Committee	Resource impact of additional programs and/ educational staff beyond scope of this study.
Transportation System	Consider pairing adjacent elementary schools to offset tiers. Additional benefit: parents with acute need can enroll student at a nearby school (without transportation provided)	SLEEP	Logistical feeder structures will be factored into the final bell time scenarios.
Other/ Misc.	Evaluate service impact of later start times at neighboring school districts	Federation of Civic Associations	Detailed review of other districts not within scope of this review. To be meaningful, any comparison should consider changes in resources and costs <i>after</i> new bell times were implemented.
Other/ Misc.	Hold pubic hearings/ countywide survey before selecting final plan	SLEEP	Board/ administrative action?
Other/ Misc.	Conduct county wide surveys and public hearings on advisability of later high school start times	Federation of Civic Associations	Board/ administrative action?

Summation and Amalgamation of Key Desired Parameters:

- High Schools should start between 8:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
- Middle Schools should start in same tier or after high schools.
- Elementary Schools should start around 7:50 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.; but in no case before 7:35 a.m.
- Elementary students should not be at their stops before civil twilight, which is:
 - Latest Start of Civil Twilight: October 31 @ 7:08 AM EDT
 - Earliest End of Civil Twilight: December 12 @ 5:17 PM EST.

Suggested Start Times for Final Scenarios:

(All times shown are tier centerlines. Actual bell times +/- 0:05 min. from centerline)

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Scenario "D"	Elementary Schools – 7:45 AM	High Schools – 8:15 AM to 8:30 AM Middle Schools – Same or 20 to 30 minutes later	Elementary Schools – 9:15 AM
Scenario "E"	Elementary Schools – 7:45 AM	High Schools – 8:15 AM to 8:30 AM Elementary Schools – 8:20 AM	Middle Schools – 9:15 AM Elementary Schools – 9:15 AM