

As a reminder, the Public Comment form is available on the District web page under the [Board of Education Public Comment tab](#) for community members to download and submit during a Board of Education meeting. In addition, anyone having a question can email the question directly to wcsd.comments@wcsdny.org.

Questions

1. What are the benefits of this change to our students?

There are varying benefits to WCSD students based on this proposed change in start time for secondary and elementary schools. Much research has been done to show that secondary students, especially high school age, do not get enough sleep. This stems from many factors such as personal, emotional, physical, social and school-related matters. The District is exploring ways assist in this area. We have reviewed the literature on school districts who are piloting programs wherein high school students are starting classes at a considerably later time, and we are interested in following their outcomes. Additionally, a later start time will allow for more daylight during travel to school, morning bus pick-up and morning drop-off at the buildings. We feel this is a safety concern that we can attempt to mitigate with a later start time for secondary students.

Elementary age students start school later in the day. Therefore, they get out of school later in the day. We have surveyed principals at the elementary level, and there are numerous after school parent pick-ups directly related to after school activities that students could not attend if their parents had to wait for the bus at home. An earlier start time for elementary schools would assist in this area. Additionally, as mentioned above, a change in start time would allow for elementary students to arrive home earlier and travel during daylight hours. As mentioned above for secondary students, this is a safety concern that we can address at the District level.

2. How many additional buses will we need to purchase in order to make this two-tier schedule possible?

We have based the discussion of this change in start time and change to a two-tier system with the premise that we will use our existing fleet and staff. Several scenarios were built so that we could explore many options and found that some worked with existing vehicles and staff and some did not.

At this time, we do not plan to purchase additional buses to meet any of these scenarios. Nor do we plan on hiring additional staff to meet the needs of a change in start time. We do plan on having a proposition on the May ballot for the replacement of school vehicles as we do every year. Please note this is for the replacement of school vehicles based on need, not the expansion of the existing fleet.

3. What is the total initial cost of these extra buses? What is the annual cost to taxpayers? Please see answer #2.

4. What is the ongoing annual cost of the new buses (fuel, insurance, maintenance) Please see answer #2.

5. How many new bus drivers will be necessary to transition from a three tier to two tier busing framework? Please see answer #2.

6. What is the total annual cost of these new bus drivers (compensation and benefits)? Please see answer #2.