

All questions below have been answered with Option B in mind and based on the information currently available. Responses may change as additional information becomes available and decisions are made in terms of details and procedures.

With no change going into effect prior to SEPTEMBER 2025, there are still many details to be figured out, discussion to take place, and decisions to be made.

Is 30-40 minutes of extra sleep really worth all this work and change?

The additional sleep could be beneficial to students in MS and HS who are physically unable to go to sleep earlier. However, this is not the only reason this change is being looked at closely. The assistance this can provide our families who have students on two different schedules is another benefit.

Why can't parents just be responsible for establishing a proper sleep schedule for their children?

Studies have shown that even with earlier, consistent bedtimes adolescents struggle to actually fall asleep. It isn't so much about what time they go to bed, but more about when they are able to fall asleep.

We filled out a survey 5 years ago on this same topic, why didn't anything happen at that time?

Feedback was collected in the spring of 2019 from all groups in an attempt to determine if there was an interest in pursuing the possibility of a later start time. Based on the responses received, the Board of Education asked us to continue the work into the 2019-20 school year. There was a transportation study completed along with several other tasks. We were to return to the BOE at their March 2020 meeting. Unfortunately, this is when the pandemic started and all work completed was put on hold until we reached a point when we felt we could revisit the topic..

If a later start time for the MS and HS students is desired, why not just switch the HS/MS AND VEW schedules?

Simply switching the schedules of the two buildings would seem like an easy solution, but for many families, the older children are needed in the afternoon to take care of siblings. After examining this option closely it appeared to create many different issues.

Why can't the HS/MS students load the buses first at dismissal time?

Dismissal at the two buildings is extremely different. At the primary school, this process takes 15-20 minutes on a good day. For the MS/HS dismissal is about 7 minutes from the time the last class ends until the buses begin leaving the front circle. Having the younger students already on the buses in their assigned seats, can expedite the dismissal process.

For this initial proposal VEW students would load first. However there are still many details to be figured out and work to be done. No decisions are finalized at this point.

Are we going to have enough buses and drivers?

Districts all over are struggling finding bus drivers. With additional bus routes to accommodate a single bus run, additional drivers will be needed. The earliest a change would start would be September 2025. This gives us a couple years for training and hiring of drivers.

Will breakfast still be provided?

Yes. All students who are interested in eating breakfast will have this option. The specific procedures are something which will be worked out next school year.

Will there still be time at the end of the day for MS and HS Students to receive extra help?

Yes. This was a major factor which the committee wanted to make sure remained in place. The extra help time available for students Block 6 in the HS or Period 9 in the MS is extremely valuable for students who need assistance or need to make up assignments.

How will a potential change impact students attending BOCES programs?

There should be no impact to CTE programs at BOCES. A new schedule will put us in line with more of the schools in our region. BOCES has always been able to accommodate all the different school schedules.

Will the after school APEX program still be available?

The cost of the APEX program for MS and HS students is covered by an Extended School Day Grant. As long as this funding continues to be available and there is interest from students, we will run the program. Transportation home each day will continue to be available for participants.

How will drop off procedures change in the mornings for both buildings?

This will be one of the areas of focus during next school year. With both schools starting around the same time, coordination of drop off areas and bus areas will be a priority.

Are there concerns with traffic around and on campus during arrival and dismissal times?

Yes. We will be requesting some type of transportation study to be completed with the assistance of the NYSDOT and local agencies to determine how the flow of traffic in and out of campus will work best during arrival and departure times.

Will it be possible to drop students off before 7:45 for parents who need to get to work?

It is our hope to be able to offer some type of morning program which will allow for an earlier drop off. This will be on the list of areas to focus on next school year. Securing funding for a morning program will be a priority area.

How will this impact athletic practices?

Athletic practices will start 15-20 minutes later than they have in the past. Therefore, you could expect after school practices in the fall and spring to end 15-20 minutes later.

Indoor practices during the winter season will not go any later than they do now - 9pm. Team will be able to make some minor adjustments and still have adequate gym time.

How will this impact athletic contests?

Looking at this year's athletic schedule, there is a very small number of contests which require teams to leave prior to 2:50 pm. Therefore, regular start times for most contests will not change, which means athletes will not be getting home later than usual.

For this school year, less than 6% of all away contests (around 20) would have had a departure time 15-30 minutes later than normal. For these contests we will need to communicate with our opponents to arrange for a slightly later start time. These contests would result in athletes returning home 15-30 minutes later than usual.

The last couple years we have been seeing athletic contests getting pushed back due to the lack of drivers available. This is an issue in all districts. A change to our schedule should not make this any worse. (The other factor we are observing relating to start times is the shortage of officials to start contests at 4:30.)

Will athletes be missing academic time to leave for contests?

No, with the rare exceptions of Sectional/State competitions or special events. As noted in the question above, the majority of competitions will not be impacted by this change. We currently have athletes who need to miss academic time, on very rare occasions.

How will this impact students' time for HW or family time in the evenings?

MS & HS students will be dismissed at 2:45 pm instead of 2:14pm. Therefore, students who are able to leave at the first dismissal will be arriving home, approximately 30 minutes later.

MS & HS who stay for Block 6 / Period 9 will be riding a late bus home, leaving around 3:25, which is the same time of the second bus run currently. Depending on which students are on the late buses on a particular day, their arrival time will be very similar to what it is currently.

The primary school students will be arriving home approximately 30 minutes earlier than they are currently.

What concerns are there with the primary students riding the buses with the MS and HS students?

At this time there are minimal concerns with all grade levels being transported on the same buses. There are many other districts who have made this work for many years. We are confident our older students can, and will, be good role models for the younger students and offer additional support on the buses.

Are the buses going to be extremely crowded with all students on one bus run?

No. We understand that when buses list their maximum capacity, this isn't realistic when talking about MS and HS students. Buses will never be filled beyond a safe comfortable number. Information will be needed from each family of their intentions to utilize bus transportation, so appropriate routes can be planned and scheduled. Our transportation department is extremely knowledgeable in terms of regulations and safe procedures. If a change is going to be made, they will be very involved throughout the transition process.

How long will the Primary students be sitting on buses waiting for the HS and MS to load?

From the last period bell in the MS and HS , until the buses start leaving the front circle is about 7 minutes.

With more students on the buses, are students going to be on buses longer?

There may be a few more students on buses but not a significant number. The numbers of students on each bus and the length of each run will be monitored to assure students are not on any buses for a longer period of time than they are currently. The BOE and Superintendent set this as one of the criteria as we continue to work through the process.

If it is determined a change is going to be made, information will be collected from families to determine as accurately as possible the number of students who will be riding buses. Our transportation department will then be able to build routes which assure no runs are longer than are currently in place.