

CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

House Bill 733: School Start Times

February 24, 2026



Agenda



- HB 733: Background
 - Legislative Mandate - HB 733 / SB 296
- Options
- Timeline
- Discussion



Requirements of HB 733 / SB 296

- HB 733 - By no later than July 1, 2026, the instructional day for all public and charter schools:
 - Middle Schools must begin no earlier than 8:00 AM
 - Senior High Schools must begin no earlier than 8:30 AM
 - Elementary School not restricted by this law
- SB 296 - Districts can submit a waiver not to implement the mandate if stakeholders are informed of health and academic benefits and impacts.
- Districts must inform the community about health, safety, and academic impacts of sleep deprivation on middle and high school students and the benefits of a later school start time.



Impacts of Sleep Deprivation

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, the National Sleep Foundation, and the American Medical Association all have policy statements in support of delaying school start times for adolescents.

- Adolescents need on average 8-10 hours of sleep per night
- Sleep deprivation can harm students' health, academic performance, and safety
- Sleep deprivation can lead to:
 - Mood disorders
 - Tendency towards high risk behaviors
 - Lower academic performance
 - Higher prevalence of self-reported accidents among teen drivers





Benefits of a Later Start Time

- An increase in the amount of sleep - closer to 8 hours
- Self-reported improvements in health and well-being
- Decreased absenteeism and tardiness rates
- Positive relationship with academic outcomes
- Safer teenage driving





Considerations for School Bell Schedules

- Safety of younger students in pre-dawn hours
- Parent work schedules:
 - Conflicting with work hours
- Childcare and associated costs
- Student Supervision and care for siblings
- Athletics
- Extracurriculars (in and out of school)
- Student employment after school
- Staff work hours
- Transportation
- Potential for added bus routes and buses
- Financial impact



Transportation Services Consideration

General School Routes



High School



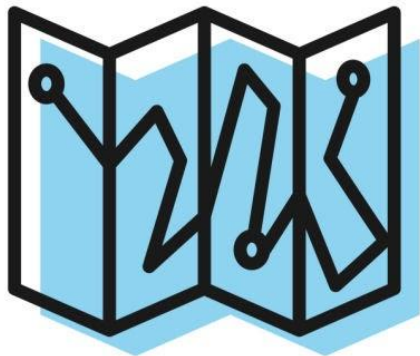
Elementary



Junior High



Need 60- 70 minutes
between grade level routes



Specialized Routes



ESE Services



McKinney-Vento



Pre-K



Alternative Schools

Extra Curricular and Contracts



Athletics



Field Trips



Contracts with Boys and Girls
Clubs, PACE, AMI Clay, etc.



Potential Options

<u>Option A</u> Current Model	<u>Option B</u> Elem - Jr - Senior	<u>Option C</u> Elem - Senior - Jr
Senior High 7:20 - 1:40	Elementary 7:20 - 1:32	Elementary 7:20 - 1:32
Elementary 8:30 - 2:42	Junior High 8:30 - 2:42	Senior High 8:30 - 2:50
Junior School 9:30 - 3:42	Senior High 9:40 - 4:00	Junior School 9:40 - 3:52

Per HB 733

Junior High Schools must begin no earlier than 8:00 AM
Senior high schools must begin no earlier than 8:30 AM

Potential Options



Option A

Current Model

School	Impacts
Senior High 7:20 - 1:40	• School Schedule remain the SAME • <u>Minimal financial and operational impacts</u> to the District if start times and transportation schedules are kept the same. • Older siblings continue to arrive home before younger siblings to assist with childcare. • Continues to allow senior high students time after school for extracurricular activities, athletics, and work. • Transportation: Helpful for high school routes to be earlier, when there is typically less traffic, since those routes tend to be geographically longer.
Elementary 8:30 - 2:42	
Junior School 9:30 - 3:42	



Potential Options

Option B

Elementary - Junior High - Senior High

School	Impacts
Elementary 7:20 - 1:32	• Increased Operating Cost (Transportation): \$932,976 per school year • Elementary students will be walking to bus stops or to school earlier in the morning and in the dark • Younger siblings would be home prior to their older siblings in the afternoon • Increased need for after school care for elementary students • At the high school level, athletics will run later into the evenings, and there may be a need to hold practice in the mornings. • Later dismissal times for high school students may impact after-school jobs and activities • High school students would be able to get additional sleep, which reduces risks for many health and behavior problems and could increase academic performance
Junior High 8:30 - 2:42	
Senior High 9:40 - 4:00	

Potential Options



Option C

Elementary - Senior High - Junior High

School	Impacts
Elementary 7:20 - 1:32	• Elementary students will be walking to bus stops or to school earlier in the morning and in the dark • Younger siblings would be home prior to their older siblings in the afternoon • Increased need for after school care for elementary students • At the high school level, athletics will run later into the evenings, and there may be a need to hold practice in the mornings. • Later dismissal times for high school students may impact after-school jobs and activities • High school students would be able to get additional sleep, which reduces risks for many health and behavior problems and could increase academic performance
Senior High 8:30 - 2:50	
Junior School 9:40 - 3:52	

Stakeholder Survey





CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

SCHOOL START TIMES SURVEY

School Start Times Survey

In 2023, Florida passed a law (HB 733) requiring middle schools start after 8:00 AM and senior high school start after 8:30 AM. However, a newer law passed in 2025 (SB 296) that provides the Clay County School Board with the flexibility to decide what is best for our specific community.

Under SB 296, the School Board has two paths for the 2026-2027 school year:

1. Maintain the current school start times, as they are today, or
2. Shift middle school starts to no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and high school starts to no earlier than 8:30 a.m.

The Clay County School Board seeks your input on this topic. **This survey will close on Friday, March 13.**

- We welcome stakeholder feedback - families, students, staff and community
- Survey runs from March 2 - 13
- Students, staff and families will receive a link to the survey
- Link will also be on the OneClay homepage



Next Steps

<u>Task</u>	<u>Date</u>
District Task Force:	November 2024
2025 Legislative Session:	March 4 - May 2, 2025
Board Workshop - Finalize Options for Survey:	February 24, 2026
Gather stakeholder input through COMMUNITY SURVEY :	March 2 - March 13
Review community input:	March/April
Board Approval:	April 2nd
Prepare, develop, and implement communications plan:	May/June
Submit Plan to FDOE:	Before June 1st
Implementation of new start times:	August 2026

THANK YOU!



Questions?



Potential Options

Option

Move Junior High to 8:00 a.m., High School 9:00 a.m., and Elementary to 10:10 a.m.

School	Impacts
Junior High 8:00 - 2:12	• Extended hours in the morning for childcare • Younger children naturally have an earlier sleep-wake cycle and a later start has potential to reduce their alertness by the time school starts. • Buses are less available for secondary athletics due to elementary • Later senior high start impacts after school activities, athletics, jobs, and childcare of siblings who arrive home later. • High school students could potentially get more sleep, which reduces the risk for health and behavior issues and increase academic performance. • Number of schools affected: All 42
Senior High 9:00 - 3:20	
Elementary 10:10 - 4:22	



Potential Options

Time	Option A Current Model
7:00 AM	7:00AM
7:30 AM	
8:00 AM	
8:30 AM	
9:00 AM	
9:30 AM	
10:00 AM	
10:30 AM	
11:00 AM	
11:30 AM	
12:00 PM	
12:30 PM	
1:00 PM	
1:30 PM	
2:00 PM	
2:30 PM	
3:00 PM	
3:30 PM	
4:00 PM	4:00PM
4:30 PM	
5:00 PM	
5:30 PM	
6:00 PM	

Time	Option B
7:00 AM	7:00AM
7:30 AM	
8:00 AM	
8:30 AM	
9:00 AM	
9:30 AM	
10:00 AM	
10:30 AM	
11:00 AM	
11:30 AM	
12:00 PM	
12:30 PM	
1:00 PM	
1:30 PM	
2:00 PM	
2:30 PM	
3:00 PM	
3:30 PM	
4:00 PM	4:00PM
4:30 PM	
5:00 PM	
5:30 PM	
6:00 PM	

Time	Option C
7:00 AM	7:00AM
7:30 AM	
8:00 AM	
8:30 AM	
9:00 AM	
9:30 AM	
10:00 AM	
10:30 AM	
11:00 AM	
11:30 AM	
12:00 PM	
12:30 PM	
1:00 PM	
1:30 PM	
2:00 PM	
2:30 PM	
3:00 PM	
3:30 PM	
4:00 PM	4:00PM
4:30 PM	
5:00 PM	
5:30 PM	
6:00 PM	



Potential Options

<u>Option A</u> Current Model	<u>Option B</u> Elementary First	<u>Option C</u> Junior High First	<u>Option D</u> Shift all start times
Senior High 7:20 - 1:40	Elementary 7:20 - 1:32	Junior High 8:00 - 2:12	Elementary 7:50 - 2:02
Elementary 8:30 - 2:42	Junior High 8:30 - 2:42	Senior High 9:00 - 3:20	Senior High 8:50 - 3:10
Junior School 9:30 - 3:42	Senior High 9:40 - 4:00	Elementary 10:10 - 4:22	Junior School 9:50 - 4:02

Per HB 733

Junior High Schools must begin no earlier than 8:00 AM
Senior high schools must begin no earlier than 8:30 AM



Potential Options

<u>Option A</u> Current Model	<u>Option B</u> Elementary First	<u>Option C</u> Junior High First	<u>Option D</u> Shift all start times
Senior High 7:20 - 1:40	Elementary 7:20 - 1:32	Junior High 8:00 - 2:12	Elementary 7:20 - 1:32
Elementary 8:30 - 2:42	Junior High 8:30 - 2:42	Senior High 9:00 - 3:20	Senior High 8:30 - 2:50
Junior School 9:30 - 3:42	Senior High 9:40 - 4:00	Elementary 10:10 - 4:22	Junior School 9:40 - 3:52

Per HB 733

Junior High Schools must begin no earlier than 8:00 AM
Senior high schools must begin no earlier than 8:30 AM

Transportation Needs



Level	Hours for School Day	Minutes Per Route
Elementary	6 hours, 12 minutes	70 minutes
Middle	6 hours, 12 minutes	70 minutes
Senior High	6 hours, 20 minutes <i>*6 hours on Wednesdays</i>	70 minutes

*Bus drivers' workday is on average 7.5 hours per day.



Potential Options

Option A	Schedule	Option B	Schedule	Option C	Schedule
• Pre-dawn bus pickup for ES • Later start and end for junior high	Elementary 7:30 - 1:42	• Pre-dawn bus pickup for ES • Later start and end for senior high - impacts to PM activities	Elementary 7:30 - 1:42	• Morning care for ES • Potential need for PM care for JH students	Junior High 8:00 - 2:02
	Senior High 8:30 - 2:50		Junior High 8:30 - 2:42		Senior High 9:00 - 3:20
	Junior School 9:35 - 3:47		Senior High 9:30 - 3:50		Elementary 10:10 - 4:12

[Options Analysis](#)



Other Districts

“The average Florida high school starts at 7:45 a.m.. For Florida middle schools, the average start time is 9:03 a.m., with only eight percent of schools starting prior to 8:00 a.m.”.

-Senate Staff Analysis

Reported barriers that were confronted when considering start time changes included: • Childcare and student supervision issues concerning care for siblings, childcare arrangements, limited school staff and concerns about child safety in dawn/pre-dawn hours. • After-school activities issues concerning afterschool employment for high school students, effects on extended day programs, and the ability to attend afterschool activities. • Transportation

“At the same time they’ve been doing this for so long and so many parents have, like, if you’ve had kids up in an elementary school since kindergarten and you have a job that works around that schedule now, it’s like if it changes now, what you have, you’re going to have parents that are going to have lack of childcare.”

Potential Options

Option A	Schedule	Option B	Schedule	Option C	Schedule
- Pre-dawn bus pickup for ES - Later start and end for junior high	Elementary 7:30 - 1:42	- Pre-dawn bus pickup for ES - Later start and end for senior high - impacts to PM activities	Elementary 7:30 - 1:42	- Morning care for ES - Potential need for PM care for JH students	Junior High 8:00 - 2:02
	Senior High 8:30 - 3:02		Junior High 8:30 - 2:42		Senior High 9:00 - 3:20
	Junior School 9:45 - 3:57		Senior High 9:30 - 3:50		Elementary 10:00 - 4:02

*Middle schools must begin no earlier than **8:00 AM**

*Senior high schools must begin no earlier than **8:30 AM**

Considerations

- Transportation
- Safety of students getting to school
- Parent work schedules
 - Conflict with work hours
 - Childcare and associated costs
- Athletics
- Extracurriculars (in and out of school)
- Student work hours