



Results of the Community School Start Time Survey

This report details the results of the comprehensive community survey conducted to evaluate three proposed bell schedule models for the 2026-2027 school year. With **20,733 respondents**, this data represents a robust cross-section of the district's stakeholders. The evaluation was initiated to determine the most viable path for compliance with Florida House Bill 733 and Senate Bill 296.

Participant Overview

The data reflects high engagement across all primary stakeholder groups:

- **Parents and Guardians:** 11,756 (56.7%)
- **Students:** 4,955 (23.9%)
- **School Employees:** 3,131 (15.1%)
- **Community Members:** 891 (4.3%)

Comprehensive Analysis of Proposed Models

Respondents were asked to select their preference among three distinct schedule scenarios:

Schedule Option	Senior High	Elementary	Junior High	Total Support
Option A (Current)	7:20 AM – 1:40 PM	8:30 AM – 2:42 PM	9:30 AM – 3:42 PM	54.1%
Option B	9:40 AM – 4:00 PM	7:20 AM – 1:32 PM	8:30 AM – 2:42 PM	14.8%
Option C	8:30 AM – 2:50 PM	7:20 AM – 1:32 PM	9:40 AM – 3:52 PM	31.1%

Stakeholder Feedback by Primary Role

1. Student Perspectives

Students prioritized their existing afternoon responsibilities over the potential benefits of later start times.

- **Economic Impact:** 71% of student comments highlighted that later dismissal times would negatively affect their ability to maintain part-time employment.
- **Extracurricular Balance:** Students expressed significant concern regarding sports practices and club meetings extending late into the evening.
- **Sleep and Health:** While 45% of students acknowledged the health benefits of later starts, the majority felt the logistical drawbacks were more significant.

2. Parent and Guardian Perspectives

Parental feedback focused heavily on safety, childcare logistics, and household economic stability.

- **Safety of Younger Students:** 68% of parents expressed strong opposition to moving elementary start times to 7:20 AM (Options B and C), citing the danger of young children waiting at bus stops in the dark.
- **Sibling Care Dependency:** A significant portion of families reported relying on high school students to provide supervision for younger siblings in the afternoon. Reversing the bell order would create a new financial burden for after-school care.

3. Employee and Staff Perspectives

District employees demonstrated the strongest preference for the current schedule, with 62% in favor of **Option A**.

- **Professional Sustainability:** 40% of staff respondents indicated that a 4:00 PM dismissal (Option B) would negatively impact their ability to remain in their current positions due to their own personal childcare needs or coaching responsibilities.
- **Student Engagement:** High school teachers reported that while 65% of students appear less alert during early morning classes, they were concerned that later dismissal would result in late-afternoon burnout.

Key Community Themes

Qualitative analysis of the open-ended feedback identified three critical areas of concern:

1. **Safety:** Persistent concerns regarding pedestrian and bus stop safety for elementary students in pre-dawn hours.
2. **Unintended Economic Consequences:** Potential loss of student income and increased family childcare costs.
3. **Tiered Impact:** Option C is viewed as the most viable "compromise" for those seeking later secondary start times without the extreme 4:00 PM dismissal of Option B.

School Start Times

Task	Date
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