



## **Executive Summary of School Start/End Time**

The district previously conducted an extensive review of school start and end times during the 2013–2015 school years. This process included community surveys, a yearlong task force, student involvement, research review, and presentations to the Board of Education.

### **Key Findings and Decisions**

- The district ultimately chose to **push start times later by approximately 20 minutes** while keeping the current structure of middle/high school starting before elementary school.
- At one-point, high school started as early as **7:20 a.m.**
- Surprisingly, many middle and high school students opposed fully flipping schedules.

### **Reasons the District Did Not Flip Elementary and Secondary Schedules**

The district identified several concerns with moving MS/HS to later start times:

#### **Academic Support & Student Success**

- MS/HS currently have a dedicated **2:30–3:10 p.m. support block** for extra help, academic recovery, and restricted-list intervention.
- Moving this support time to the morning (“zero period”) was viewed as punitive for struggling students and would undermine the goal of increased sleep.
- District leaders noted that schools with flipped schedules often struggle to provide effective academic support and help students get off academic restriction lists.

#### **Athletics & Extracurricular Activities**

- Later dismissal times would cause student-athletes to miss more instructional time for away games and activities.
- Many extracurricular programs rely on the current afternoon support/activity block.
- Fewer students might participate in clubs, sports, and activities under a later secondary schedule.

#### **Family & Childcare Impacts**

- Some families rely on older siblings being home after school for younger children.
- Elementary students needing after-school childcare would spend significantly longer hours in care programs if elementary schedules shifted later.

#### **Student Sleep Habits**

- Surveys showed many high school students believed they would simply stay awake later rather than sleep more if schedules shifted.

---

## Transportation and Financial Constraints

Transportation was identified as one of the largest barriers to major schedule changes.

### **Common PK–12 Schedule Option – 8:00 AM – 3PM (not significantly changing the current start time MS/HS students)**

A single start/end time for all students was considered ideal in some respects but raised concerns:

- Families expressed discomfort with younger elementary students riding buses with older secondary students.
- The district would require approximately **4–5 additional buses and drivers**.
- Estimated ongoing annual cost increase: **about \$500,000**.

### **Current Transportation Challenges**

- Lansing’s rural geography and lack of sidewalks limit walking and biking options.
- The district already faces a bus driver shortage and is seeking additional drivers.
- The district has tried to avoid pickups earlier than 6:45 a.m., though some routes currently begin around 6:35 a.m.
- Future transportation planning must also account for the state transition to electric buses (2032).

---

## Summary of Afternoon Student Pick-Up Procedures: Elementary School

The district also explained why it continues using its current outside/cafeteria-dismissal pickup system rather than allowing large-scale indoor pickup.

### **Main Reasons**

- Safety and traffic management are primary concerns.
- Over 400 students depart daily, often with changing pickup arrangements and custody-related considerations.
- Multiple pickup locations would require additional staffing and create confusion.
- Large numbers of families inside the building and parking areas simultaneously were viewed as unsafe and chaotic.
- The current process helps buses enter and exit efficiently and minimizes traffic congestion.

---

## Overall District Position

The district believes it has already taken meaningful steps to address adolescent sleep concerns by modestly delaying start times and reducing student stress through broader wellness and academic support efforts. Leadership remains open to revisiting options in the future but continues to weigh:

- academic support needs,
- extracurricular participation,
- transportation realities,
- financial costs,
- family logistics,
- and overall student safety.

***It's a great day to be a***

***Bobcat***