



Supervisor Hillary Ronen

SFUSD recently announced plans to adjust the start times of more than 40 schools in the district, which will see changes between 30 minutes to over a full hour from their existing schedules. While these adjustments are being proposed with the intention of standardizing and streamlining school start times across grade levels, the changes have generated many questions and concerns about the consequences of these shifts in schedule.

Parents and caregivers often choose their school based on the school's specific start time in order to accommodate their work and life schedules. The unilateral change in start times could inadvertently drive away families if the changed start times no longer work for their personal schedules.

Moreover, it is unclear what impacts the changed start times will have on afterschool programs, whether such programs would be expected to run for a longer period of time at schools that are required to start earlier in the day, and who will bear the costs of these extended program times.

There are also outstanding questions about what motivated the district's decision to change start times, and whether established research around child development and age-appropriate start times supports staggering the times in the way that SFUSD is proposing.

I am calling a hearing to help SFUSD families and the general public understand what prompted the school district's decision to change school start times, what child development research or fiscal considerations justify these changes, how families, teachers, and other school stakeholders were consulted in determining the new start times, how the changes affect teachers' work schedules, and what impacts these changes have on afterschool program operating costs and staffing needs. The hearing will also provide an opportunity for directly impacted families to voice concerns and share recommendations about the start time changes.

I am directing the Clerk of the Board to invite representatives from the San Francisco Unified School District, School Board members, and the United Educators of San Francisco to attend.