SFUSD's School Start Time Changes

Youth, Young Adult, and Families Committee
June 11, 2021

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Why
Change Start/End Times?

- Board of Education Resolution No. 106-23A

- SB 328 requires all middle and high schools to move to later start times by July 1, 2022

- Provide all schools with common planning time

- Standardize the length of the school day across divisions

- Save millions $ each year

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Why Now?

1. **Changing start times is hard...**
   - Impacts staff and families

2. **...but we have to do it...**
   - Changes are mandated for 22-23
   - Required by state law to make changes for MS and HS; cannot just change MS & HS
   - Pre-pandemic times not ideal
     - 19 different start times
     - Lacked predictability and transparency
     - Length of day varied by school
     - 69% of ES did not have common planning time

3. **...and we have momentum!**
   - Now will be easier than next year
   - Schools haven't used their pre-pandemic schedules in over a year. If we wait until 2022 to make changes, families will have gotten settled into pre-pandemic schedules again, and the changes will be more difficult.

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How
did we design start times?

- Changing school start times is a complex problem. Even if every school were to start at one of 3 times, there are 100 novemdecillion potential combinations to choose from (that's a 1 followed by 62 zeroes).

- In addition to the **mathematical complexity** of the problem, any changes are inevitably going to make some people **unhappy**. Every school that shifts to a new start time is going to have some families and school staff who are **thrilled** with the changes, and others who will **struggle** to make the new time work for them.

- In November, SFUSD **partnered with a research team** to write an algorithm that can sift through billions of potential scenarios to help SFUSD staff make better decisions.

  - Sebastien Martin, Assistant Professor at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management
  - Arthur Delarue, a fifth year PhD student at MIT
  - Zhen Lian, a fifth year PhD student at Cornell

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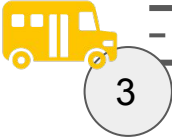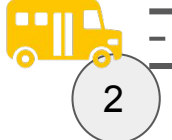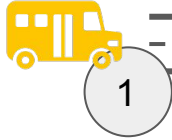
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Design Principles

- Seek solutions that are **fiscally responsible while holding equity** at the center.
- Start all schools at **one of three times**: 7:50, 8:40, or 9:30.
- Start **PK SDC programs at stand-alone** early education schools at 8:40 am so students have the same experience as their general education peers.
- Start **PK SDC programs that are co-located** with an elementary school at the same time as the K-5 program, and have their day end 4 hours later.
- **Standardize the length of the school day** for elementary and middle schools and align early release on Wednesday afternoons.
- Seek to **minimize the degree of change** between the new start time and pre-pandemic start times for elementary schools.
- **Start middle schools at 9:30 am and start high schools at 8:40 am** to bring SFUSD into compliance with SB 328 which requires secondary students to have later start times.
- **Give K8 schools the option** of another year to transition their middle school grades to a 9:30 am start time and to standardize the length of their school day.
- **Start alternative high schools** (e.g. Downtown HS or Ida B. Wells HS) at 9:30, in order to meet students' unique needs.
- **Give high schools the opportunity** to determine their end times and early release schedules as they build out their master schedules for the 2021-22 school year.

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What's
Changing for 2021-22?

www.sfusd.edu/StartTimesFall2021

1. Every school will start at one of three times: 7:50, 8:40, or 9:30.

2. Standardized length of school day

3. Aligned early release to support common planning time and professional development for site staff.

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3 schools starting at the **same time requires 3 buses** - this drives up costs

If the same schools started at **3 different start times** *with enough time in between* they could be served by **1 bus** - and this would reduce costs by two thirds, while also helping reduce traffic and greenhouse gas emissions.
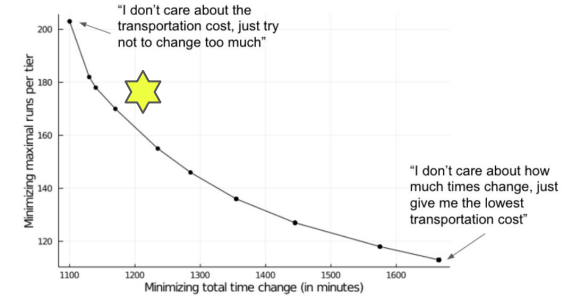
1

2

3

8:40

1

7:50

8:40

9:30

What's Changing for 2021-22?

Number of Schools in Each Start Time

Level	7:50 AM	8:40 AM	9:30 AM	Total
1. PK SDC	3	15	4	22
2. ES	28	23	15	66
3. K8	4	1	5	10
4. MS			13	13
5. HS		14	2	16
Total	**35**	**53**	**39**	**127**
	28%	*42%*	*31%*	*100%*

"Pareto frontier"

Degree of Change

Level	No Change	10 mins or less	15 to 30 mins	40 to 50 mins	Hour or more	Total
1. PK SDC	6	1		10	5	22
2. ES	38	6	3	18	1	66
3. K8	4	2	1		3	10
4. MS			8		5	13
5. HS			6	9	1	16
Total	**48**	**9**	**18**	**37**	**15**	**127**
	38%	*7%*	*14%*	*29%*	*12%*	*100%*

Benefits
of the proposed changes

- Older students will **start school later**
  - Shown to improve physical and mental health, as well as academic performance
  - Comply with SB 328, which requires later starts for MS and HS by 2022

- SFUSD will save **~$3 million** annually on transportation costs

- Increased access to **common planning time**
  - Aligning the start times for MS (9:30 am) and HS (8:40 am), makes it possible to align common planning time.
  - All elementary schools will be able to have early release for common planning time.

- Standardizing the length of the school day provides **predictability, consistency and clarity** for families and all school communities
  - Moving to 3 start and end times will help schools and community based organizations coherently align supports and resources in service of our school communities.

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Before-School Care Plans

- Options are being developed to provide before-school care as transitional support for several schools moving to a 9:30 start time for Fall 2021
  - 9 Elementary/K8 schools shifting by more than 15 minutes (top priority): BV/Mann, *Carmichael, Longfellow, McCoppin, Revere, Serra, Sunnyside, Sunset, Sutro*
  - 5 Middle schools shifting by more than 30 minutes (next priority): *Brown, Everett, King, Lick, Vis Valley*

- Supervision could be provided either by school staff or community-based organizations (based on each school's circumstances)

- Programs and activities could include: breakfast & outdoor play

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Questions and Discussion