



**Community Engagement Session Questions and Answers: School Start Times  
September 6, 2018**

**1. When will high school athletic teams practice?**

Depending on which scenario is chosen, PSD will have to make some decisions about when practices will be held. It is possible that some practices will be held in the afternoon and others may be held in the morning. The possibility of holding practices in the morning because more likely in scenarios with later end times.

In Cherry Creek School District, after moving to later start times, the district decided to allow only swimming and hockey to practice in the morning as these sports were already having morning practice. It is likely that PSD would continue to allow for morning practice for swimming and hockey but may also permit other sports to practice in the morning as well. This decision will be made once a scenario is decided upon.

**2. With the possibility of practices going later into the evening, does the district plan to add lights at any fields knowing that the sun goes down early in Fall and Winter in Colorado?**

At this time, PSD has lights on three of its fields. We do not currently have plans to add lights to other fields, but this may be something that we explore depending on which scenario is chosen.

**3. Varsity athletes, in particular, are already missing afternoon classes to travel to competitions (i.e. in Denver and elsewhere around the state). If start and end times are later, will these student-athletes miss more class than they do now?**

We believe, depending in the scenario chosen, that there is a possibility that middle school students will miss less class time than they do now given the structure of bussing for athletics. At present, middle school student-athletes are often dropped off for games 45 minutes to an hour before game time. If middle school start and end times are later, the start of games may be closer to the end of the school day.

From a high school perspective, we have heard from other districts that have implemented later starts that in some cases they have been able to adjust game times to later in the day, particularly within their leagues. Such districts have also reported that in some cases, students do miss more class time. It has been the experience of Cherry Creek, for example, that some schools with which they compete have been flexible while others have not been. So, it is possible that in some cases, high school student-athletes would miss more class time to travel for athletics.

Should PSD make a change to start times, we will make every effort to limit the amount of class time that student-athletes may miss.

**4. With elementary schools starting and ending earlier in some of the proposed scenarios, does PSD have an idea of the number of students who will be in afterschool Base Camp for longer and/or the number who will be home alone?**

Child care arrangements will vary from family to family, as they do now. We will not know how many students opt into afterschool Base Camp until after changes to schedules are made, if they are made. In the scenarios where the elementary school day starts sooner, we anticipate that Base Camp hours will move earlier in the morning and extend to meet the end of the school day in the afternoon. We also anticipate that Base Camp will continue to end its day around 6pm in any scenario. It is conceivable that students would be at Base Camp for longer in the afternoon if school lets out earlier.



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***5. Where does the funding to support any of these scenarios come from?***

PSD has contemplated using the Board of Education's reserve to pay for the one-time costs associated with these scenarios, meaning the purchasing of new busses. Ongoing costs to support any of these scenarios will be address through the regular annual budget process. We believe that the ongoing costs of the scenarios are manageable with some strategic budget planning and we believe that the capital/one-time costs can be managed from existing funds.

***6. What have other districts learned from other students/families who have already experienced this start time change? Has PSD learned from any mistakes that have been made by other districts?***

Most of the data that we have available to us from other districts that have undergone this change comes from Cherry Creek School District, where a pre and post-survey of students was administered. Cherry Creek's data indicates that students are seeing improved social/emotional well-being, with reports of drops in anxiety levels for students and students self-reporting that they feel more ready for school when they go to school. It is still too early to know if there are positive academic outcomes associated with the change made in Cherry Creek. Additional outcomes noted in Cherry Creek's data include students reporting that they did stay up later – an average of 8 minutes later – but slept an average of 50 minutes longer. Students also reported not needing as much catch-up sleep on the weekends and reporting more consistent sleep all week long. Cherry Creek has also indicated that they hope that other districts will move to later start times so that athletics can be shifted more consistently as Cherry Creek has had some challenges in adjusting game times for students when playing against schools that do not have later start times.

From Thompson School District, we have learned the importance of fully exploring the possibility of shifting to a later start before making a decision. TSD moved into its later start model quickly. PSD has been charged with taking time to complete this student. There is energy in our community for change, but we want to ensure that we are hearing the community voice before taking action.

In Greeley, we saw the district make some changes to start times, bussing, and walking distances. The changes implemented lasted about a year and Greeley appears to have moved away from the model that they implemented a year or so ago.

In short, PSD wants to ensure that our constituents have a voice, that we fully understand what research is telling us, and that we take the time necessary to make a change that will be lasting.

***7. Outside of Transportation, what might be some of the associated costs of a move to later start times?***

We are anticipating operational costs. For example, we will need to examine changes to custodial time, changes to schedules for support staff may be necessary as well. We are also cognizant of the City of Fort Collins' planned move to a three-tiered rate for electricity. If school start times are moved back, we anticipate that the increase in rates will impact our utility bills as we will likely no longer be able to shut down systems early in the afternoon to mitigate costs.



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***8. Are there costs to families in any of these proposed scenarios? Is PSD anticipating any differences/impacts to family budgets?***

It is difficult to answer this question because each family's situation and budget are unique. However, the district recognizes that there is the possibility that childcare costs could change for families.

***9. Can the public weigh in on end times?***

Yes. There are open-ended questions in the survey that is currently available where respondents can provide feedback on all aspects of the start time scenarios under consideration, including the end times.

***10. Will high schools continue to have late start Wednesdays?***

This is something that the district is still examining, but it is unlikely that later start Wednesdays will continue.

***11. How many survey responses did the district receive on the first survey and how many have been received so far on the second?***

The district received more than 10,000 responses on the first survey and has received more than 5,600 on the second as of the morning of September 6.

***12. Are there some subgroups of the PSD community that may be more impacted by these scenarios than others?***

Any time that a change is made in our system, there are impacts. It is difficult to predict how the changes will impact each individual family within PSD because the impact of change will be different for everyone.

***13. Have we heard from our community about jobs for teenagers and how a change to start and end times will impact them? How will it impact extracurricular activities?***

There is certainly concern about moving end times back in the day have an adverse impact on jobs and other activities outside of the school day. We have also heard from independent employers that they will continue to want to work with students and will make opportunities available to them. In the first survey, we also heard frequently about the impact to family time and are aware that there is a concern about the impact of later end times on things like dinner time and time together as a family unit in the evenings.

***14. What percentage of PSD students are athletes? Is that a large enough population to dictate how start and end times are altered?***

According to the first survey, about a third of all PSD high school students have after school jobs, 49% report participation in after school activities/extracurriculars and about 46% report participate in PSD athletics.

Per our Athletic Department, our average yearly athletic participation runs right at 55% for high schools and close to 60% for middle schools. High school athletic participation combined with students who participate in after school activity clubs (band, chorus, drama etc.) averages around 88% student participation percentage per year.

As PSD has moved our high schools to single lunch periods, we have been able to bring many club and extracurricular meetings to inside of the school day, which has improved access for our students.



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**15. Is Base Camp advocating for any specific scenario or schedule?**

No. Base Camp will adjust their schedules to whichever scenario PSD opts to implement. Base Camp representatives were part of the committee that explored start times and is prepared to make adjustments when PSD makes a decision. Base Camp also operates in Thompson School District so is currently experiencing their changes as well.

**16. Do these plans consider the new schools being built in the next few years and if so, how so?**

Yes, we are factoring growth into these plans. As new schools are opened, bus routes will change. It is possible that routes will become shorter in the Wellington area and east of I-25. Should PSD opt to change start times, the changes to start times will be implemented before

**17. Has anyone asked the students what they think?**

Yes. Students have received both surveys. High school students have indicated that they would like to have later start times, but also would like to have the current school end times.

**18. What is the process for considering the impact on staff and their extra duty responsibilities? It was noted that PSD has a hard time finding leaders for extracurricular activities and it seems that changing start and end times may exacerbate this.**

We have received feedback from staff expressing concern about impacts to their time and extra duty responsibilities. As with any change, changes to start times and end times will impact each of our coaches and activity sponsors differently. In Cherry Creek, they found that some coaches were no longer able to coach, while others who had not had the opportunity to coach previously due to scheduling were able to become coaches with the new schedule. PSD anticipates that there will be similar experiences in our district.

**19. The data gathered by Cherry Creek is mentioned throughout this presentation. Is there anywhere the public can view this data? Is other data available from other districts outside of Colorado?**

We have not seen much published research on outcomes elsewhere in the nation and most of these transition in Colorado have been relatively recent, so research is not yet available. We will reach out to Cherry Creek to see if their results are posted/available publicly. If they are, we will link them on the PSD website.