



Ayer Shirley Regional School District

Later Start Times

Frequently Asked Questions

April 2, 2018

Q: How will this change in start times impact bus routes? Will they increase in time?

A: No, the bus routes will not increase in time. We are moving another bus to the middle school for the Shirley routes which may decrease the time on some of the Shirley routes.

Q: Will the middle school students and high school students be on different buses and get on at different times in the morning?

A: High school and middle school students will share the Ayer buses, but not the Shirley buses. It will remain the same as it is this year.

Q: How will this affect the bus schedules and routes and drivers in the am and pm?

A: The bus company will handle the bus schedules and routes in both the am and pm. The routes will remain as they are this year unless new families move in to areas where buses are not traveling to at this time. Dee Bus will send us the bus routes and times early to mid August. Dee Bus also posts the routes in the local newspaper and we post them on the website.

Middle school and high school students will need to be at the bus stops at approximately 6:55am and the elementary students will have to be at the bus stops at approximately 7:55am. We all need to keep in mind that if we launch this new schedule, we need to be flexible and there may be minor adjustments once the new school year begins.

Q: Why is the high school start time later, but the end time is unchanged? Wouldn't this effectively shorten the high school day?

A: Yes, the high school day will be adjusted to a 6.5 hour day, which is the typical school day in Massachusetts.

Q: How can high school and middle school start and dismiss at the same time?

A: The high school students who live in Ayer will have a short wait in the afternoon as has been the practice in the past, and that is the only impact.

Q: What will be the schedule for ACP and Extended Day?

A: The schedules at ACP at Page Hilltop and Extended Day at Lura A. White will remain the same.

Q: Why do we not add another bus?

A: Our busses adequately serve the number of students riding them. Shirley is geographically larger than Ayer and thus the routes are longer for Shirley.

Q: Will this affect the middle school students that play high school sports?

A: There is no impact to middle school students who participate in high school sports. Middle school students who play high school sports will ride the Ayer bus to the high school as they do now.

Q: Will the daily schedule/lunch schedule change?

A: Schedules will be slightly adjusted to meet the time changes.

Q: What other districts have implemented later start times?

A: School districts that have already implemented later start times: Concord-Carlisle, Lexington, Monomoy, Ashland, Lunenburg, Beverly High School, Brookline High, Nauset Regional. School districts changing for 2018-2019: Burlington, Melrose, Westborough. School districts considering later start times: Acton-Boxborough, Groton Dunstable, Taunton, Westford.

Q: Why can't the elementary students start earlier than the high school students?

A: Parents rely on older siblings for after school child care. We also do not feel it is safe for young children to be traveling to and standing at bus stops early in the morning.

Q: Why can't the high school start later?

A: The elementary students would have to start earlier and would not be able to arrive home until after 4:00pm. We wanted to ensure the busses would be cleared of children and back in the yard by 4:00pm as they are now.

Thank you for your questions. If we have left any unanswered, please send them to Michelle Towne at mtowne@asrsd.org.

We appreciate your feedback and participation.
ASRSD