



West Chester Area School District

OUR MISSION IS TO EDUCATE AND INSPIRE OUR STUDENTS
TO ACHIEVE THEIR PERSONAL BEST



School Start Time Task Force

Community Update - December 4, 2019

- Structure of the four committees
- Community/Parent Feedback
- Summary of Committee work



Timeline



April 29, 2019 – Kick off meeting with community and staff

July and August – Committee meetings

September, 2019 – Sleep expert presentations to high school and community

October and November – Committees met

***December 4** – Community Update*

January 8, 2020 – 6:30 p.m. – Committees meet

February, 2020 – Administration prepares final report

March 9, 2020 – final report presented to Board Education Committee

March 23 (tentative), 2020 – presentation to school board



Districts that have changed find teens *are* sleeping more



Teens get more sleep and more
"overnight therapy" sleep



Absenteeism reduced by 25%
and graduation rates go up



Standardized test scores in math
and reading go up by 2 to 3
percentage points



Students and families are
happier and less stressed



Car crash
rates go down

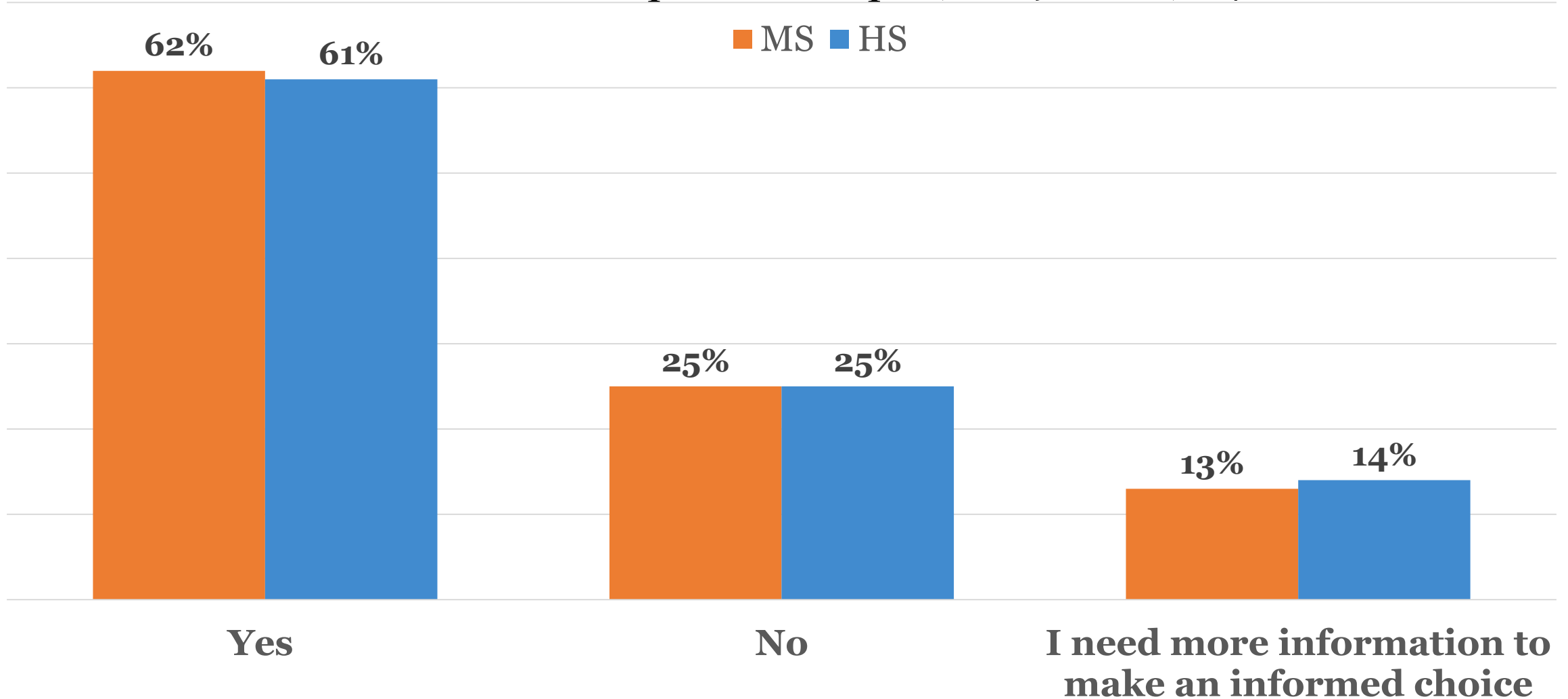


Potential economic
benefits



Should the West Chester Area School District consider starting school later for secondary students?

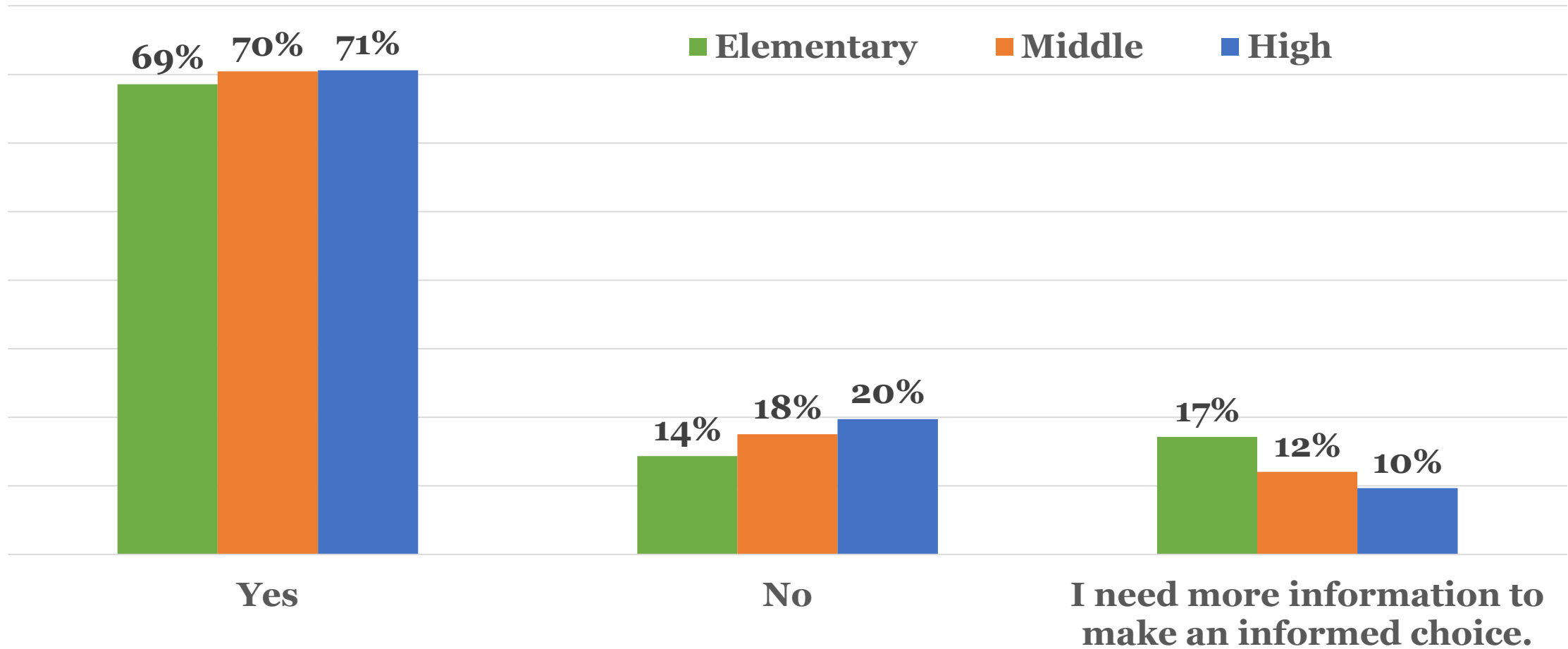
Student responses in April, 2019 (n= 2,287)





Should the West Chester Area School District consider starting school later for secondary students?

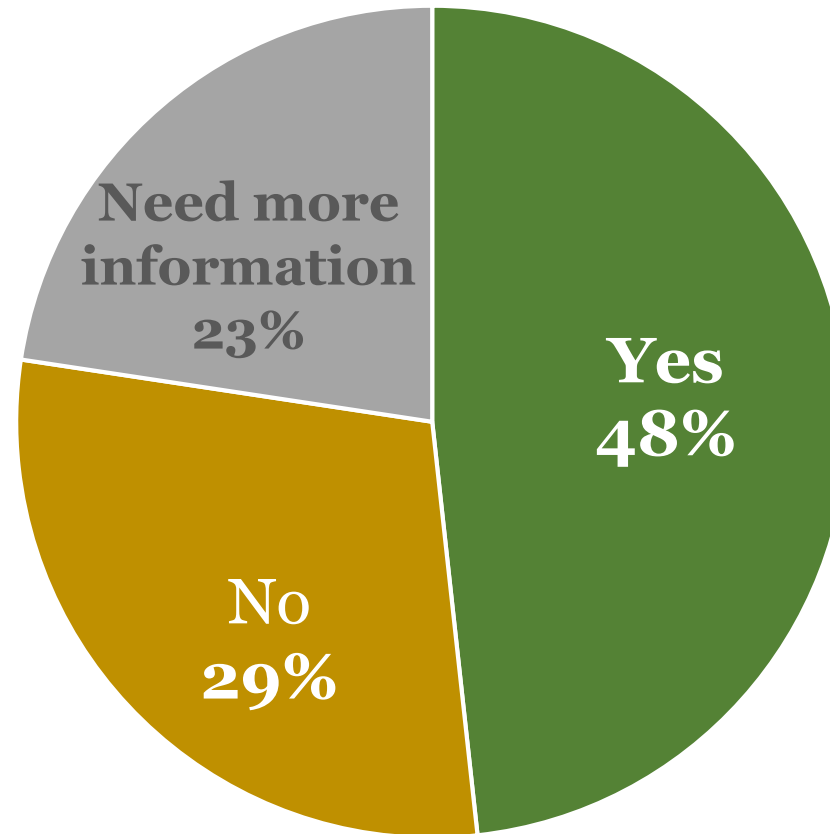
Parent responses in April, 2019 (n=2,515)





Should the WCASD consider starting school later for secondary students?

Staff responses in April 2019 (n=460)





Current Schedule

Schools	School Day
EHS, HHS, RHS, FMS	7:30 am – 2:15 pm
PMS, SMS	8:05 am – 2:50 pm
EBE, EGE, EXE, GAE	8:40 am – 3:10 pm
FHE, HDE, MCH, PWE, SWS, WTE	9:10 am – 3:40 pm



Possible options/scenarios

Option 1

Schools	School Day
SMS, PMS	8:05 am -2:50 pm
EHS, HHS, RHS, FMS	8:30 am – 3:15 pm
ALL ES	9:10 am -3:40 pm

Option 2

Schools	School Day
ALL HS/MS	8:15 am – 2:55 pm
EBE, EGE, EXE, GAE	8:40 am – 3:10 pm
FHE, HDE, MCH, PWE, SWS, WTE	9:10 am -3:40 pm

Option 3

Schools	School Day
ALL HS/MS	8:30 am – 3:15 pm
ALL ES	9:10 am -3:40 pm



Community/Parent Feedback April-December 2019

Received 42 comments – 50/50 split

Suggestions to consider:

- Include traffic impact study
- Effect on bus drivers
- Sports/activity impact
- Start all secondary at same time
- Book to read, “Why we Sleep”
- Childcare needs



Community/Parent Feedback

April-October 2019

- Send another survey to see what students and families prefer.
- Impact on game scheduling with surrounding districts and practicing times (especially during winter).
- When would students needing extra help meet with teachers?
- Will students actually get more sleep?
- Impact on families with students in elementary school and their activities (logistics).
- Is it possible to shift elementary schools to an earlier start time?



Findings

Impact on Students – Option 1

Schools	School Day
SMS, PMS	8:05 am -2:50 pm
EHS, HHS, RHS, FMS	8:30 am – 3:15 pm
ALL ES	9:10 am -3:40 pm

- Students at SMS and FMS will not benefit from additional rest.
- HS students may have busier roads to navigate, but they will be driving after more rest.
- Commuters may adjust their times to avoid buses and HS drivers.
- HS students would report later for jobs, activities.
- There could be an impact on clubs. Are teacher volunteers willing to stay beyond the contract day?
- Four ES would start later; students may spend more time in day care.



Findings

Impact on Students – Option 2

Schools	School Day
ALL HS/MS	8:15 am – 2:55 pm
EBE, EGE, EXE, GAE	8:40 am – 3:10 pm
FHE, HDE, MCH, PWE, SWS, WTE	9:10 am -3:40 pm

- *All secondary students benefit from additional rest.*
- HS students may report later for jobs, activities, and therapy times, but not as late as option 1 and 3.
- Does an 8:15 start make as much of an impact as an 8:30 start?
- There would be no impact to elementary schools.



Findings

Impact on Students – Option 3

Schools	School Day
ALL HS/MS	8:30 am – 3:15 pm
ALL ES	9:10 am -3:40 pm

- All students benefit from additional rest.
- Four elementary schools start later.
- Some students may spend more time in day care.



Findings

Impact on Parents – All Options

- Parents need to consider childcare arrangements and expenses for childcare.
- Before school care may need to be added at middle school.
- Consider tax implications vs. student benefits – How much will taxes go up?
- Parents need to consider transportation implications to coordinate family and work commitments (e.g. student driving, parents drop off, etc.)
- Consideration should be given to look for ways to offset costs.
- The need for two-hour delays may be reduced.



Findings

Impact on Staff – All Options

- Staff may need to consider childcare arrangements and expenses for childcare.
- May impact commute to and from school due to different traffic patterns.
- May impact staff being available to run after school clubs.
- Teacher contractual day may need to be adjusted to cover various times when students arrive to school.
- Custodial schedules may need to be altered.
- Consider sending another staff survey if a start time schedule is changed to address particulars.



Findings

Impact on Transportation

- Sample bus runs during new times found routes to be one to seven minutes longer.
- Facility Use rental would not be impacted with change in ending school times.
- Transportation contracts may need to be revised to attract additional drivers.
- Cost of adding bus runs is dramatic.



Costs of Transportation Needs

Option 1 – \$4,152,432 - 56 additional buses/drivers for regular education and 14 for special education. Also requires 2 additional special education aides.

- *Tax implication per average homeowner - \$99 (2.4%)*

Option 2 - \$4,521,000 – 61 additional buses/drivers for regular education and 14 for special education. Also requires 5 additional special education aides.

- *Tax implication per average homeowner - \$107 (2.6%)*

Option 3 - \$6,867,000 – 99 additional buses/drivers for regular education and 18 for special education. Also requires an additional 3 special education aides.

- *Tax implication per average homeowner - \$163 (3.8%)*



Other Possibilities

Option 4

Schools	School Day
ALL HS/MS	8:00 am -2:45 pm
EBE, EGE, EXE, GAE	8:40 am – 3:10 pm
FHE, HDE, MCH, PWE, SWE, WTE	9:10 am -3:40 pm

Option 5

Schools	School Day
SMS, PMS	7:30 am – 2:15 pm
FMS, EHS, HHS, RHS	8:05 am – 2:50 pm
EBE, EGE, EXE, GAE	8:40 am – 3:10 pm
FHE, HDE, MCH, PWE, SWS, WTE	9:10 am -3:40 pm



Findings

Impact on Transportation



When considering variations of certain options, we can reduce the cost for bus transportation:

- ***Option 4 (Variation of Option 2) – \$4,258,131** - 61 Additional Buses/Drivers for regular education and 11 for special education. Also requires 1 additional special education aide.
 - ***Reduces cost from Option 2 by \$263,000.***
 - Tax implication per average homeowner - \$101 (2.4%).

- ***Option 5 (Variation of Option 1) - \$3,277,554** – 44 additional busses/drivers for regular education and 12 for special education. Also requires 1 additional special education aide.
 - Maintains four tiers of school starting times.
 - ***Reduces cost from Option 1 by \$874,878.***
 - Tax implication per avg. homeowner - \$78 (1.7%).

**** The assumptions used to determine costs were based on current contract rates with bus carriers. Future considerations will need to be made with respect to re-negotiating contracts based on average daily use.***



Financial Implications

**The cost of moving start times range from
\$3.2 to \$6.5 million per year.**

To raise the funds to pay for this, we would need to:

- Enact a one-time tax increase (1.7% to 3.8%) above the Act 1 Index, which would require a voter referendum.
- Find additional revenue.
- Reduce programs.



Options to raise the money

1. Go to voter referendum to ask voters to approve a 1.7% tax increase. (\$78 per homeowner) – ***Would generate \$3.2 million.***
2. Work with legislators to increase transportation funding.
3. Work with legislators to change the requirement for transporting beyond our borders for non-public, non-special education students – ***Would save approximately \$1.5 million.***
4. Use savings from the WCASD Cyber diploma program to go towards transportation – ***Would generate \$1 million.***
5. Begin a fund balance account and implement once we reach the necessary funds.

WC School District Start Time Comparison

School District	Enrollment	# of Schools	Sq. Miles	HS Start time	MS Start time	ES Start time	Private/Parochial busing
WCASD	12,079	16	75	7:30	7:30 / 8:05	8:40/9:10	150
Radnor	3,814	5	14	8:30	7:50	9:07	85
Unionville-CF	4,012	6	77	8:00	8:00	9:10	65
T/E	6,000	8	38	7:50	8:27	9:10	92
Phoenixville	4,119	6	22	8:05	8:05	9:05	75
Hardin County Kentucky	14,000	21	522	8:25/8:40	8:00/8:20	7:30/7:40	



Puzzling Questions



- Why have other districts been able to change school starting times without significant transportation costs?
- Are there new transportation efficiencies that would help us to save money?
- If all of the private, parochial and charter schools agreed to move times by 45 minutes, would that save money?



Next Steps



Are there any other scenarios that could provide more sleep in a more affordable way?



Next Steps

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

Committees meet – *review any other options*

February, 2020 – Administration prepares final report and recommendations

Monday, March 9, 2020 – Final report presented to Board Education Committee

Monday, March 23, 2020 – Presentation to School Board