

High School Start Time Working Group Update

**Newton Public Schools School Committee
December 14, 2015**

Communication & Outreach

- ▶ Community Letter
- ▶ Community Video Message
www.newton.k12.ma.us
- ▶ Web Page
- ▶ Requests for updates and news from the working group
 - ▶ 174 people have signed up so far



High School Student Survey

- ▶ Student feedback from test groups was excellent
 - ▶ *Thank you to the students who helped!*
- ▶ Survey is in process at the High Schools
- ▶ Individual results are confidential
- ▶ High Schools will finish administering the survey before December recess
- ▶ Results expected in late January



Survey Goals

- ▶ Focus on gathering information about students activities and responsibilities
- ▶ Ask key opinion questions that also inform about the complexity of the issue
- ▶ Gain a fuller understanding of the impact of potential changes on the student population



Survey Question Topics

- ▶ School arrival
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ School activities and responsibilities
- ▶ Non-school activities and responsibilities
- ▶ Family responsibilities
- ▶ Parent availability at arrival and leave times
- ▶ Current opinions about school start time



High School Student Survey - Intro



High School Start Time Student Survey

Dear Newton High School Students,

There is growing consensus that later high school start times can contribute important health and wellness benefits for adolescents. Yet, most high schools typically start early for a number of reasons including transportation costs and scheduling; parent and sibling schedules; timing for sports and after school activities; student employment; and field and facilities use.

We have formed a working group to explore pushing back the high school start times in future school years. Part of this exploration includes gathering feedback from students related to current conditions and student experiences.

The start time working group is asking you to complete this survey to provide us with information about the current conditions you experience with relation to high school start time. We greatly appreciate your honest feedback.

Don't forget to check out the district website to find information related to high school start time. You can also sign up to receive updates about what we are learning about the possibilities for a later high school start time. Once the surveys are analyzed, the results will be posted on the district website so you can read about the findings.

Sincerely,

David Fleishman
Superintendent of Schools



High School Student Survey - Excerpt

School arrival

4. What time do you usually leave for school each morning? Please write in the usual time you leave.

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

5. What is the primary way you get to school each morning? Please choose a response for each season.

Fall

Winter

Spring

Primary way

6. What are the additional ways you sometimes get to school?

You can leave this question blank if you do not have other ways.

Fall

Winter

Spring

Walk

☐☐☐

Take a school bus

☐☐☐

Current Timeline for Key Tasks

December 2016

- ▶ Development and beta testing of staff survey

January 2016

- ▶ Analysis of student survey results
- ▶ Stakeholder review and feedback of staff survey; more testing
- ▶ Begin administration of staff survey
- ▶ Development and beta testing of high school parent survey

February 2016

- ▶ Analysis of staff survey results
- ▶ Administration of parent survey
- ▶ Planning for an interactive public event to both share learning and gather feedback – Date TBD



Communication Next Steps

- ▶ Information to be added to the web site
 - ▶ Working Group updates
 - ▶ F.A.Q. document
 - ▶ Other community examples
 - ▶ Survey results
- ▶ Notice of all new postings to be sent to email group
- ▶ Next School Committee update
 - ▶ Anticipated January 25, 2016

