

March 3, 2025

Good Afternoon Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Environment, and Energy Committee,

I am Lisa VanBuskirk, Chapter Leader of Start School Later Anne Arundel County and Maryland. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB-468: Public Middle, High, and Charter Schools - Start Time for Instruction.

I would like to highlight the following Maryland organizations support this legislation in addition to Start School Later and its Maryland Chapters in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Howard County, Montgomery Count, and Statewide: FreeState PTA, Maryland Sleep Society, MedChi Marland State Medical Society, and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Late last week, the Maryland Sleep Society signed a Joint Resolution on Healthy, Safe, and Age-Appropriate School Hours Legislation in Maryland with Start School Later (Enclosure 1).

Following the 2016 passage of then Delegate (now Lieutenant Governor) Aruna Miller's *HB 83- Orange Ribbon Bill for Healthy School Hours*, I created a state-wide chapter of Start School Later to track the progress of school start times. By my estimates (the Maryland State Department of Education does not track school start times), the average middle school start time is 8:17 a.m., the average high school start time is 7:57 a.m., and the average start time of charter middle and high schools is 8:21 a.m.<sup>1</sup> There are many individual middle and high schools, public and charter, that already meet the requirements of this bill. One school system Anne Arundel County fully meets this bill. With just 10 minutes of modification to Garrett County's high school start times, they would meet it as well. (Enclosures 2, 3, 4, 5). Frederick County's workgroup was to start last month and Harford County initiated a conversation on school hours on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Howard County, which adjusted school hours last year, could further adjust start times at no additional cost, according to the Superintendent's statement on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Despite the ever-increasing research on the benefits of safer, healthier, and age-appropriate school hours and encouragement through Maryland legislation in 2014 and 2016, relying on local control and local advocacy efforts has resulted in limited success in Maryland. It has taken decades of advocacy, hard fought election of supportive Boards of Education members, and nearly as many steps backwards as forwards to advance implementation plans, despite the well documented benefits. When school systems are unable to act, the state of Maryland has an obligation to help them.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.startschoollater.net/md---statewide.html

The 2014 joint report by the Maryland State Department of Education and Department of Health was prescient in stating,

"...in preserving the status quo whereby school start times are a matter for each local jurisdiction, the state risks letting local resistance trump a strong body of scientific evidence that sleep is critical to health and academic achievement."<sup>2</sup>

Opponents focus on assumptions of increased logistics expenses, but ignore the current cost to student physical and mental health, safety, attendance, graduation rates, academics, and the return on investment in greater lifetime earnings as calculated by a 2017 Rand report.<sup>3</sup>

It is worth noting that <u>both Anne Arundel County</u> (school year 2022-2023) <u>and Howard County</u> (school year 2023-2024) <u>implemented new school hours at zero additional cost</u>. <u>Initial transportation estimates are frequently inflated and assume existing systems are already perfect</u>. Anne Arundel County went from an estimate of \$8-9 million in 2014, to cost neutral in 2022, because there was so much waste in the transportation system, as well as incorrect assumptions and perceptions about operations, including legacy ways of bus routing using post-it notes. The estimate cited in the Fiscal Note, conflicts with initial estimates presented to the Frederick County Board of Education in July 2024. Other Maryland school systems may find cost neutral solutions, such as St Mary's County noted in the Fiscal Note.

What helped both Anne Arundel and Howard County implement safer, healthier, and more age-appropriate school start times was the use of outside transportation experts to assist the school system in thinking through their transportation policies and operations, as well as teach them to fully use their transportation routing software.<sup>5</sup> As recently as 2021, the Office of Legislative Audits noted that 18 of 24 school systems were not fully using their school bus routing software.<sup>6</sup> (Use of school bus routing software has been recommended in Maryland since the 1975 Report of the Task Force to Review the Public School Pupil Transportation Program.<sup>7</sup>) Transportation is not the biggest obstacle to new school hours. Fear of change is the largest obstacle.

There are many logistical solutions to implement new school hours, but current staff frequently lack the necessary tools, equipment, expertise, experience, or training to untie the tangled knots of school logistics. The overreliance on local school systems to enact new school hours is a barrier to improvement in Maryland students' physical and mental health, safety, and academics. **School systems need legislative assistance in setting a floor for the earliest start times and eliminating the fear of change.** Just as the General Assembly sets the floor for minimum total hours of school and/or minimum number of school days, so to, can the General Assembly set a minimum school start time.

There is flexibility within the law for implementation, to allow school systems to make decisions appropriate for their community. Elementary school start times are not addressed in the legislation,

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://www.startschoollater.net/uploads/9/7/9/6/9796500/maryland\_dhmh\_school\_start\_time\_report\_123114.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\_reports/RR2109.html and https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/lets-end-the-annual-fall-march-of-the-zombies-in-maryland/2018/09/28/5daad216-b1f5-11e8-9a6a-565d92a3585d\_story.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/politics and government/levels of government/county/fcps board of education/board-of-education-creates-work-group-to-study-school-start-times/article 82da745c-de8e-5c13-a6ec-890fe148c43e.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://www.startschoollater.net/uploads/9/7/9/6/9796500/01 13 2021 school start times br.pdf and https://www.aacps.org/cms/lib/MD02215556/Centricity/Domain/280/Transportation%20Services%20comprehensive%20Evalaution%201-8-20.pdf

<sup>6</sup> https://www.ola.state.md.us/Search/Report?keyword=&agencyId=&dateFrom=&dateTo=&reportTypeId4=4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://www.startschoollater.net/uploads/9/7/9/6/9796500/1975 msde transportation report.pdf

allowing communities and school systems the flexibility to determine appropriate elementary school start times. In Maryland, elementary schools start as early as 7:30 and as late as 9:30. Safety concerns about elementary students starting too early or releasing too late, should already be part of the conversation in each school system, in addition to discussions of the research-based recommendations on middle and high school start times.

Our school systems showed incredible creativity and flexibility during the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic. Things that were not thought to be possible, were implemented, evaluated, and continuously adjusted. The same creativity and analysis can be applied to age-appropriate school hours. With several years to implement, school systems will identify barriers to implementation, but I am confident they can work with their communities to address concerns and overcome hurdles. The option exists within the legislation to seek a waiver from the State Board of Education, if conditions exist that a school system cannot overcome. A wealth of resources and expertise exist within Maryland to assist school systems with implementation. Four school superintendents in Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery, and Talbot Counties have experience implementing new bell times in their current or previous job. In a recent Baltimore Banner article about Baltimore City's reliance on MTA buses for transportation, MSDE was quoted as supporting later bell times.<sup>8</sup>

If both Florida and California legislations can agree that school start time have become the responsibility of the state government (and it may be one of the rare things on which those two states agree), as well as the number of other states considering similar legislation in 2024 and 2025, including Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Nevada, Louisiana, and Oregon to name a few, then Maryland's legislators can and should, assume similar responsibilities when local school boards fail to act in the interest of student health and safety.

I ask for a favorable report on SB-468: Public Middle, High, and Charter Schools - Start Time for Instruction.

Lisa E Van Buskirk

Lisa VanBuskirk, P.E., CDR USCGR (Retired),

Chapter Leader, Start School Later Maryland | Start School Later Anne Arundel County

Enclosure (1): Joint Resolution on Healthy, Safe, and Age-Appropriate School Hours Legislation in Maryland

Enclosure (2): 2024-2025 Public School Hours in Maryland Compared to Orange Ribbon for Healthy School Hours

Enclosure (3): Maryland Public High School Start Time Enclosure (4): Maryland Public Middle School Start Time

Enclosure (5): Maryland Charter School Start Time

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 $<sup>{\</sup>color{blue}{8}} \ \underline{\text{https://www.thebaltimore-banner.com/education/k-12-schools/baltimore-city-school-buses-HF3HHWC67ZF7BCRJ66WMB3VWDI/loops-loo$ 



## Maryland | Statewide

health, safety and equity in education

## Joint Resolution on Healthy, Safe, and Age-Appropriate School Hours Legislation in Maryland

WHEREAS, To protect their lives and well-being, every Maryland public school student requires sufficient sleep for maximum health and wellness. Research shows that adolescents require between 8.5 and 9.5 hours of sleep per night, yet more than three-quarters of Maryland's high school students and over half of Maryland's middle school students average fewer than 8 hours of sleep on school nights; and

WHEREAS, Natural sleep-wake rhythms change as children grow into adolescence, such that adolescents require an increased amount of sleep, typically have difficulty falling asleep much before 11:00 PM, and function optimally if permitted to remain asleep until 8:00 AM or later. Early middle and high school start times and student commutes to schools necessitate waking hours earlier than optimal; and

WHEREAS, Studies have demonstrated that the duration and timing of sleep is positively correlated with school outcomes, including attendance and graduation rates for secondary school students, but early school start times can curtail adolescents' sleep, thereby negatively affecting their ability to learn and remain in school; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that insufficient and irregular sleep imperils adolescents by heightening risks for a multiplicity of threats to their health, safety, and well-being including increased risk for car crashes, athletic injuries, depression and suicidality; harmful behaviors, including use of illicit drugs, criminal behaviors and violence, and increased risk for obesity, cardiovascular disease, metabolic dysfunction, and other physical health problems; and

WHEREAS, Evidence strongly indicates that earlier school start times are a key but modifiable contributor to insufficient sleep, as well as to natural sleep rhythm disruption; and

WHEREAS, Evidence demonstrates that implementation of later school start times for adolescents affords students the opportunity to obtain sufficient levels of sleep, thereby improving physical and mental health, safety, school performance, and quality of life; and can be achieved with no change in the number of hours spent engaged in athletics, extracurricular activities, and homework after the schedule change; and

WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, American Academy of Sleep Medicine, National Sleep Foundation, U.S. Centers for Disease Control, National Education Association, National Parent Teacher Association, and other healthcare and education organizations support starting middle and high schools at age-appropriate hours, 8:30 a.m. or later; and

**WHEREAS,** Maryland should continue to lead the Nation in addressing the adolescent school start times, building on the <u>resolution</u> in 1998 by MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society and the State's landmark legislation in 2014 (House Bill 883) and 2016 (House Bill 39) on school start times; and

WHEREAS, In the decade since the passage of statewide legislation encouraging later bell times, despite the ever-increasing research on the benefits of later bell times and three decades of local advocacy, only two school systems (Anne Arundel County in 2022 and Howard County in 2023) have prioritized student health and safety by implementing age-appropriate school bell times, which were implemented with no additional transportation costs; and

WHEREAS, In the report pursuant to House Bill 883, "Study of Safe and Healthy School Hours for Maryland Public Schools", jointly published in 2014 by the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland State Department of Education which stated, "The consequences of changing school start times are unavoidable, but they can be ameliorated with proper planning and preparation. Any consideration of a statewide mandate for a later school start time must consider the unique needs of each of the 24 local jurisdictions. However, in preserving the status quo whereby school start times are a matter for each local jurisdiction, the state risks letting local resistance trump a strong body of scientific evidence that sleep is critical to health and academic achievement;" and

**WHEREAS,** The state of Maryland is obligated to act in the interest of the health, safety, and welfare of its students, a statewide guardrail limiting how early classes begin would empower Local Education Agencies to prioritize the best interests of students while setting schedules that meet the needs of local communities.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the undersigned organization supports statewide legislation setting school start times aligned with the recommendations of the major healthcare organizations.

Organization Name:		
Address:		
Phone Number:		
Representative's Name:		
Title/Role with Organization:		
Signature:	Date:	

By signing this document, you imply that you have the authority to represent the listed organization.

If your organization would like its logo included in the final signature page and website, please email the logo to the email address listed below.

Please email completed form to: Start School Later Maryland: <a href="mailto:sslaaco@gmail.com">sslaaco@gmail.com</a>



# 2024-2025 Public School Hours in Maryland

<u>RED</u> = (1) Middle and high school start times that do not meet the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation that such schools *not* start before 8:30 a.m. and (2) the elementary school start time is earlier than 8 a.m.

<u>GREEN</u> = Start times of 8:30 a.m. or later for middle and high schools and/or elementary school starts of 8 a.m. or later, per the Orange Ribbon for Health School Hours.

\* The Orange Ribbon for Healthy School Hours program was signed into law in April 2016. The certification has three levels, from lowest to highest: Limited, Honorable Mention, and Commended.

	HS start time or	MS start time	ES start time or	Does the district currently qualify for a Healthy
County/School District	start ranges	or start ranges	start ranges	School Hours Orange Ribbon Recognition?*
Allegany County	7:40	7:40	8:00 to 8:45	
Anne Arundel County	8:30	9:15	8:00 to 8:30	Yes! Eligible for Commended (the highest level)! Implemented in 2022-2023 school year
Baltimore City	7:30 to 9:00	7:30 to 9:15	7:30 to 9:15	Moved a number of schools earlier in the 2022-2023 school year.
Baltimore County	7:10 to 7:45	7:40 to 8:30	8:35 to 9:20	
Calvert County	7:25 to 7:40	7:22 to 8:25	8:30	
Caroline County	7:50	7:40	9:00	
Carroll County	7:30	8:25 to 8:35	7:45 to 9:30	
Cecil County	7:40	7:50-8:10	9:00	
Charles County	7:25 to 8:05	7:45 to 8:50	8:30 to 9:30	
Dorchester County	7:50 to 8:15	7:55 to 8:05	8:30 to 9:00	
Frederick County	7:30	8:00	8:20 to 9:00	
Garrett County	8:20	8:30	8:15 to 8:40	Yes! Eligible for Honorable Mention
Harford County	7:30	8:15	9 to 9:30	
Howard County	7:50	7:50 to 8:30	8:40 to 9:25	Yes! Eligible for Honorable Mention. Moved school hours in 2023-2024 school year. but there's still more work to do
Kent County	7:35	7:40	9:00	
Montgomery County	7:45	7:55 to 8:15	9:00 to 9:25	Yes, Limited or Honorable Mention! The district moved start times later than they were before in 2015, but there's still more work to do.
Prince George's County	7:30 to 9:30	7:30 to 9:30	7:30 to 9:15	Moved a number of schools (including nearly all high schools) earlier in the 2024-2025 school year.
Queen Anne's County	7:35	7:45	7:30 to 8:55	
Somerset County	7:30	7:20	8:00	
St Mary's County	8:00	7:20 to 8	8:25 to 9:00	
Talbot County	7:45 to 7:50	7:45 to 7:50	8:40	
Washington County	8:35- 9:05	7:20 to 8:35	7:30 to 9:15	
Wicomico County	7:45	7:45 to 9:15	8:15 to 9:15	
Worcester County	7:48 to 8:07	7:30 to 8:00	7:45 to 8:30	

## Maryland Public Schools High School Start Times: 2024-2025 School Year

## The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later.

The American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, the National Association of School Nurses, the Education Commission of the States and the National PTA agree.

As detailed here, the vast majority of Maryland public high schools open well before 8:30 a.m.

Bus pick-ups starting before 6 a.m. require students to wake at hours long before what is safe, healthy, and developmentally-appropriate for their still-growing brains and bodies. Teaching sleep-deprived teens challenging academics, including AP courses, in the 7 a.m. hour is both cruel and undermining.

With such schedules, teenagers have to be in bed and *asleep* at 8 or 9 p.m. in order to get the amount of sleep they need. This just isn't possible — for biological and logistical reasons. When students oversleep and miss the bus, many wind up being extremely tardy or entirely absent from school due to having no transportation alternatives.

#### **ALLEGANY COUNTY**

Mountain Ridge	7:40
Allegany	7:40
Fort Hill	7:40
Center for Career/Technical	
Education	7:30

1		
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY	,	
Annapolis	-	8:30
Arundel		8:30
Broadneck		8:30
Chesapeake		8:30
Glen Burnie		8:30
Meade Senior		8:30
Northeast		8:30
North County		8:30
Old Mill		8:30
Severna Park		8:30
Southern	8:30	
South River		8:30
Phoenix Academy		9:15
Chesapeake Science Point Cl	narter	8:20
<b>BALTIMORE CITY</b>		
Excel Academy At Francis M.	Wood	9:00
Benjamin Franklin at		
Masonville Cove		8:00
Claremont		9:15
Bard HS Early College		8:00
City Neighbors		9:00
Patterson	8:00	
Tatterson		
Forest Park		7:30
		7:30 8:00
Forest Park		
Forest Park Western	ute	8:00
Forest Park Western Edmondson-Westside	ıte	8:00 8:00
Forest Park Western Edmondson-Westside Baltimore Polytechnic Institu	ute	8:00 8:00 8:00
Forest Park Western Edmondson-Westside Baltimore Polytechnic Institu Mergenthaler Vo-Tech	ute	8:00 8:00 8:00 7:45
Forest Park Western Edmondson-Westside Baltimore Polytechnic Institu Mergenthaler Vo-Tech Paul Laurence Dunbar	ute 8:00	8:00 8:00 8:00 7:45 8:00
Forest Park Western Edmondson-Westside Baltimore Polytechnic Institu Mergenthaler Vo-Tech Paul Laurence Dunbar Digital Harbor		8:00 8:00 8:00 7:45 8:00
Forest Park Western Edmondson-Westside Baltimore Polytechnic Institu Mergenthaler Vo-Tech Paul Laurence Dunbar Digital Harbor Reginald F. Lewis	8:00	8:00 8:00 8:00 7:45 8:00

Williams S Baer School		9:15
Reach! Partnership School	8:45	
Bluford Drew Jemison		
STEM Academy		8:00
Baltimore Leadership Young		
Women		8:45
Baltimore Collegiate School fo	or	
Boys		7:30
Baltimore Design School		8:45
Baltimore School for the Arts		8:00
National Academy Foundatio	n	8:45
New Era Academy		7:30
Vivien T. Thomas Medical Art	S	
Academy		7:30
Acad. for College/Career		
Exploration		8:00
Augusta Fells Savage Inst.		
Visual Arts		8:00
Coppin Academy		8:00
Renaissance Academy		7:45
Career Academy		9:00
Success Academy		8:45
Youth Opportunity Academy	9:00	
<b>BALTIMORE COUNTY</b>		
Catonsville		7:45
Dundalk	7:45	
Chesapeake		7:45
Dulaney		7:45
Eastern Technical	7:45	
Franklin		7:40
Hereford		7:40
Kenwood		7:45
Landsdowne		7:45
Loch Raven		7:45

Overlea		7:45
Owings Mills		7:45
Parkville		7:45
Patapsco	7:45	
Pikesville	7:40	
Perry Hall		7:45
Patapsco	7:45	
Randallstown		7:25
Rosedale Center		7:00
Sollers Point Technical		7:45
Sparrows Point		7:45
Towson		7:40
Woodlawn		7:30
<b>CALVERT COUNTY</b>		
Calvert		7:40
Career and Technology Acade	emy	7:40
Northern	7:25	
Patuxent	7:25	
Huntingtown		7:25
<b>CAROLINE COUNTY</b>		
Colonel Richardson		7:43
North Caroline		7:50
Caroline Career & Technology	/	
Center		7:50
CARROLL COUNTY		
Century		7:30
Francis Scott Key		7:30
Liberty		7:30
Manchester Valley	7:30	
South Carroll		7:30
Westminster		7:30

New Town

7:45

## Maryland Public Schools High School Start Times: 2024-2025 School Year

Winters Hill	7:30	Tuscarora	7:30					Bowie		7:30
Carroll Springs	8:35	Urbana		7:30	KENT COUNTY			Central		7:30
Gateway 7:30	)	Walkersville		7:30	Kent County		7:35	Charles Flowers		7:30
		LYNX at Frederick		8:54	,			Crossland	7:30	
CECIL COUNTY					MONTGOMERY COUNTY	,		Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr		8:30
Perryville 7:40	)	<b>GARRETT COUNTY</b>			Bethesda Chevy Chase	_	7:45	Duval		8:30
North East HS	7:40	Northern	8:25		Clarksburg		7:45	Eleanor Roosevelt	8:30	
Bohemia Manor	7:45	Southern	8:25		Albert Einstein		7:45	Fairmont Heights		8:30
Elkton	7:30				Montgomery Blair	7:45		Frederick Douglass	7:30	
Cecil County School of Technology	8:00	HARFORD COUNTY			Damascus		7:45	Friendly		7:30
Rising Sun	7:45	Aberdeen	7:30		Gaithersburg		7:45	Gwynn Park		7:45
		Bel Air		7:30	James Jubert Blake	7:45		High Point		7:30
<b>CHARLES COUNTY</b>		C. Milton Wright		7:30	Thomas Edison		7:45	International HS Langly Pa	rk 7:30	
Henry E Lackey	7:25	Edgewood		7:30	Walter Johnson		7:45	International HS Largo		9:30
La Plata	7:30	Fallston		7:30	Winston Churchill	7:45		Largo		7:30
McDonough	7:30	Harford Technical		7:30	John F Kennedy		7:45	Laurel		8:30
North Point	8:05	Harve de Grace		7:30	Col. Zakok Magruder		7:45	Non-Traditional Program I		9:30
Thomas Stones	7:30	Joppatown		7:30	Richard Montgomery		7:45	Non-Traditional Program S	South	9:30
Westlake 7:30	)	North Harford		7:30	Northwest		7:45	Northwestern		8:30
St Charles	7:25	Patterson Mill		7:30	Northwood		7:45	Oxon Hill	9:30	
Robert D. Stethem Educational					Paint Branch		7:45	Parkdale	7:30	
Center	7:50	<b>HOWARD COUNTY</b>			Poolesville		7:45	Potomac	7:30	
		Atholton HS		7:50	Quince Orchard		7:45	Suitland	8:30	0.20
<b>DORCHESTER COUNTY</b>		Centennial HS		7:50	Rockville	7:45		Surrattsville		8:30
Cambridge-South Dorchester 8:15	5	Glenelg HS		7:50	Seneca Valley		7:45			
North Dorchester	7:50	Hammond HS		7:50	Sherwood		7:45	QUEEN ANNE'S COUNT	<u>Y</u>	
		Howard HS		7:50	Springbook		7:45	Queen Anne's County		7:35
FREDERICK COUNTY		Long reach HS		7:50	Watkins Mill		7:45	Kent Island		8:00
Brunswick	7:30	Marriotts Ridge HS	7:50		Wheaton	7:45				
Catoctin	7:30	MT Hebron HS		7:50	Walt Whitman		7:45	SOMERSET COUNTY		
Frederick 7:30	)	Oakland Mills HS		7:50	Thomas S. Wooton	7:45		Washington		7:30
Governor Thomas Johnson	7:30	Reservoir HS		7:50				Crisfield		7:30
Linganore 7:30	)	River Hill HS		7:50	PRINCE GEORGE'S COUN					
Middletown	7:30	Wilde Lake HS		7:50	Academy of Health Science	PGCCC	9:30			
Oakdale	7:30	Applications & Research La	b 7:50		Bladensburg		9:30	ST MARY'S COUNTY		

## Maryland Public Schools High School Start Times: 2024-2025 School Year

Chopticon	8:00
Great Mills	8:00
Leonardtown	8:00

#### **TALBOT COUNTY**

Easton 7:45 St Michaels 7:50

#### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Barbara Ingram School for the Arts 9:05 Boyd J Michael, III Technical 9:00 Boonsboro 8:35 Clear Spring 8:35 Hancock 8:35 North Hagerstown 8:35 Smithsburg 8:35 South Hagerstown 8:35 Williamsport 8:35

#### **WICOMICO COUNTY**

James M. Bennett 7:45

Mardela MS/HS 7:45

Parkside 7:45

Wicomico 7:45

#### **WORCESTER COUNTY**

Pocomoke 8:00 Snow Hill 8:07 Steven Decatur 8:00

## Maryland Public Schools Middle School Start Times: 2024-2025 School Year

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later.

The American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, the National Association of School Nurses, the Education Commission of the States and the National PTA agree.

As detailed here, many of Maryland public middle schools open well before 8:30 a.m. There are also quite a few that begin after 8:30 a.m.

Early bus pick-ups require students to wake at hours long before what is safe, healthy, and developmentally-appropriate for their still-growing brains and bodies. Teaching sleep-deprived adolescents challenging academics, in the 7 a.m. hour is both cruel and undermining.

With such schedules, adolescents have to be in bed and *asleep* at 8 or 9 p.m. in order to get the amount of sleep they need. This just isn't possible — for biological and logistical reasons. When students oversleep and miss the bus, many wind up being extremely tardy or entirely absent from school due, when they lack transportation alternatives.

#### **ALLEGANY COUNTY**

Braddock MS		7:40
Mount Savage (K-8)	7:30	
Washington MS		7:40
Westmar MS		7:40

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNT	<u>Y</u>		Baltimore Leadership School fo	r	Glenmount ES/MS	8:00	
Annapolis MS		9:15	Young Women	8:45	Graceland Park-O'Donnell		
Arundel MS		9:15	Baltimore Montessori Public		Heights ES/MS		7:30
Bates MS	9:15		Charter	8:00	Hamilton ES/MS		7:30
Brooklyn Park MS		9:15	Barclay ES/MS	9:00	HampdenES/MS		7:30
Central MS		9:15	Bay Brookes ES/MS 9:	:00	Hampstead Hill Academy		8:00
Chesapeake Bay MS		9:15	Beechfield ES/MS	8:00	Harlem Park ES/MS	8:00	
Corkran MS		9:15	Bluford Drew Jemison STEM		Hazelwood ES/MS	8:00	
Crofton MS		9:15	Academy West	8:00	Highlandtown ES/MS No 2	15 8:00	
Lindale MS		9:15	Booker T. Washington MS	8:45	Highlandtown ES/MS No 2	37 8:00	
MacArthur		9:15	Cherry Hill ES/MS	8:45	Holabrid ES/MS		9:00
Magothy River MS	9:15		City Neighbors Charter School	8:00	James McHenry ES/MS		9:00
Marley MS		9:15	City Neighbors Hamilton	8:00	John Ruhrah ES/MS	7:45	
Meade MS		9:15	City Springs ES/MS 83	:55	Joseph C. Briscoe Academy	7:30	
North East MS		9:15	Claremont	9:15	Katherine Johnson Global		
Old Mill MS North	9:15		Collington Square ES/MS	9:15	Academy (3-8)		8:00
Old Mill MS South	9:15		Commodore John Rodgers ES/N	ИS 9:00	KIPP Harmony Academy		7:30
Severn River MS		9:15	ConnXions: Community Based		Lakeland ES/MS		8:45
Severna Park MS		9:15	Art School	9:00	Leith Walk ES/MS		8:00
Southern MS		9:15	Cross Country ES/MS	9:15	Lillie May Carroll Jackson S	chool	8:00
Phoenix Academy	9:15		The Crossroads School	8:45	Lois T. Murray ES/MS		9:15
Chesapeake Science Point C	Charter	8:20	Curtis Bay ES/MS	7:30	Maree G. Farring ES/MS		8:00
			Dickey Hill ES/MS 7:	:30	Margaret Brent ES/MS		7:45
BALTIMORE CITY			Dr. Nathan A. Pitts-		Midtown Academy	8:00	
Academy for College and Ca	areer		Ashburton ES/MS	8:00	Montebello ES/MS	7:45	
Exploration		8:00	Elmer A Henderson: A Johns		Morrell Park ES/MS		7:30
Arlington ES/MS		9:15	Hopkins Partnership		Mount Royal ES/MS		8:00
Armistead Gardens ES/MS		7:45	School	9:00	National Academy Founda	tion	8:45
Baltimore Collegiate School	for		Empowerment Academy	7:45	New Song Academy		8:45
Boys		8:30	Excel Academy at Francis M. We	ood 9:00	North Bend ES/MS	9:00	
Baltimore Design School		8:45	Fallstaff ES/MS	7:30	Patterson Park Public Char	ter	
Baltimore International			Forth Worthington ES/MS	7:45	School		7:45
Academy (K-8)		7:30	Francis Scott Key ES/MS	9:00	Pimlico ES/MS		7:45
Baltimore International Aca	demy		Franklin Square ES/MS	7:45	Roland Park ES/MS	8:00	
West (K-8)	•	9:00	Garrett Heights ES/MS	9:00	Rosemont ES/MS		7:45
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## Maryland Public Schools Middle School Start Times: 2024-2025 School Year

Southwest Baltimore Charter		Parkville MS		8:10	CECIL COUNTY		West Frederick MS	8:00	
School	8:45	Perry Hall MS		8:20	Bohemia Manor MS	7:40	Windsor Knolls MS	8:00	
Stadium School	7:45	Pine grove MS		8:10	Cherry Hill MS	7:40			
Tench Tilghman ES/MS	8:00	Ridgely MS		8:15	Elkton MS	7:40	<b>GARRETT COUNTY</b>		
Thomas Jefferson ES/MS	8:00	Rosedale Center		7:00	North East HS	7:40	NorthernMS		8:30
Thomas Johnston ES/MS	7:45	Southwest Academy		8:05	Perryville MS	7:40	SouthernMS		8:30
Turnbridge Public Charter School	7:45	Sparrows Point MS	8:05		Rising Sun MS	7:40			
Vanguard Collegiate MS	7:45	Stemmers Run MS	8:25				HARFORD COUNTY		
Violetville ES/MS	7:30	Sudbrook Magnet MS		8:30	CHARLES COUNTY		Aberdeen MS		8:15
Walter P. Carter ES/MS	9:15	Windsor Mill MS		8:30	Theodore G. Davis 8:50		Bel Air MS		8:15
Waverly ES/MS	8:45	Woodlawn MS		8:15	John Hanson MS	8:30	Edgewood MS		8:15
Westport Academy 9:15					Mathew Henson MS	8:30	Fallston MS		8:15
Williams S. Bear School	9:15	<b>CALVERT COUNTY</b>			Mattawomen MS	8:25	Harve de Grace MS	8:15	
Woodhome ES/MS 7:30		Calvert MS		7:22	Piccowaxen MS	7:45	Magnolia MS		8:15
		Mill Creek MS		8:05	General Smallwood MS	8:40	North Harford MS		8:15
<b>BALTIMORE COUNTY</b>		Northern MS		7:22	Milton M. Somers MS	7:30	Patterson Mill MS		8:15
Arbutus MS	8:20	Plum Point MS		8:10	Benjamin Stoddert MS	8:30	Southampton MS		8:15
Catonsville MS	8:15	Southern MS		8:25					
Cockeysville MS	8:00	Windy Hill MS		8:07	DORCHESTER COUNTY		<b>HOWARD COUNTY</b>		
Crossroads Center 9:30					Mace's Lane MS	7:50	Bonnie Branch MS	8:30	
Deep Creek MS	8:15	<b>CAROLINE COUNTY</b>			North Dorchester MS	7:55	Burleigh Manor MS	8:30	
Deer Park MS Magnet	8:10	Lockerman MS		7:40	South Dorchester (K-8)	9:00	Clarksville MS		7:50
Dumbarton MS	8:15	Colonel Richardson MS		7:40			Dunloggin MS		7:50
Dundalk MS	8:15				FREDERICK COUNTY		Elkridge Landing MS		7:50
Franklin MS	7:50	<b>CARROLL COUNTY</b>			Ballenger Creek MS 7:30		Ellicott Mills MS		8:30
General John Stricker MS	8:25	East MS		8:35	Brunswick MS	8:00	Folly Quarter MS		7:50
Golden Ring MS	8:10	Mt. Airy MS		8:25	Crestwood MS	8:00	Glenwood MS		8:30
Hereford MS	7:40	North Carroll MS		8:30	Governor Thomas Johnson MS	7:50	Hammond MS		8:30
Holabird MS	8:15	Northwest MS		8:25	Middletown MS	8:00	Harper's Choice MS	8:30	
Lansdowne MS	8:05	Shiloh MS		8:25	Monocacy MS	8:00	Lake Elkhorn MS		8:30
Loch Raven Technical Academy	8:15	Sykesville MS		8:25	New Market MS	8:00	Lime Kiln MS		8:30
Meadowood Education Center	8:00	West MS		8:35	Oakdale MS	8:12	Mayfield Woods MS		8:30
Middle River MS	8:15	Carroll Springs K-12	8:35		Thurmont MS	7:25	Mount View MS		8:30
Northwest Academy of Health		Gateway 6-12		7:35	Urbana MS	8:00	Murray Hill MS		8:30
Science	8:10				Walkerville MS	8:00	Oakland Mills MS	7:50	
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Patapsco MS		8:30	Shady Grove MS	8:15	Thomas Johnson MS		9:30	WICOMICO COUNTY		
Patuxent Valley MS	7:50		Silver Creek MS	8:15	Thurgood Marshall MS		8:30	James M. Bennett MS		8:15
Thomas Viaduct MS		8:30	Silver Spring International 8:15		Walker Mill MS		9:30	Mardela MS/HS		7:45
			Sligo MS	8:15	William Wirt MS		8:30	Pittsville MS		8:00
<b>KENT COUNTY</b>			Takoma Park MS	8:15				Salisbury MS		7:45
Kent County MS		7:40	Tilden MS	8:15	<b>QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY</b>			Wicomico MS		7:45
			Hallie Wells MS	8:15	Centerville MS		8:50			
MONTGOMERY COUNT	Υ		Julius West MS	8:15	Matapeake MS		8:00	WORCESTER COUNTY		
Argyle MS	_	8:15	Westland MS	8:15	Stevensville MS		7:40	Pocomoke MS		8:10
John. T. Baker MS		8:15	White Oak MS	8:15	Sudlersville MS		7:30	Snow Hill MS		8:00
Benjamin Banneker MS		8:15	Earle B. Wood MS	8:15				Steven Decatur MS	7:30	
Briggs Chaney MS		8:15			<b>SOMERSET COUNTY</b>					
Cabin John MS		8:15	<b>PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY</b>		Somerset Intermediate		7:20			
Roberto Clemente MS		8:15	Benjamin StoddertMS	8:30						
Eastern MS		8:15	Benjamin Tasker MS	8:30	ST MARY'S COUNTY					
William H. Farquhar MS		8:15	Buck Lodge MS	8:30	Chesapeake Public Charter	8:03				
Forest Oaks MS		8:15	Charles Carroll MS 8:30		Esperanza MS		7:10			
Robert Frost MS		8:15	Drew Freeman MS 7:30		Leonardtown MS		7:05			
Gaithersburg MS		8:15	Dwight D Eisenhower MS	9:30	Margaret Brent MS	7:55				
Herbert Hoover MS	8:15		Earnest Everett Just MS	9:30	Spring Ridge MS		7:05			
Francis Scott Key MS		8:15	G. James Gholson MS	8:30						
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. N	/IS 8:15		Glenridge Area MS 8:30		TALBOT COUNTY					
Kingsview MS		8:15	Greenbelt MS	9:30	Easton MS		7:35			
Lakeland Park MS		8:15	Gwynn Park MS	7:30	St Michaels MS/HS	7:50				
Colonel E Brooke Lee		8:15	Hyattsville MS	9:30	·					
A. Mario Loiderman MS		8:15	James Madison MS 9:30		WASHINGTON COUNTY					
Montgomery Village		8:15	Kenmoor MS	9:30	Boonsboro MS		8:35			
Neelsville MS		8:15	Kettering MS	7:30	Clear Spring MS		8:35			
Newport Mill MS		8:15	Martin Luther King Jr. MS	9:30	E. Russell Hicks MS	7:20	0.55			
North Bethesda MS	8:15		Nicholas Orem MS 9:30		Northern MS	7.20	7:20			
Parkland MS		8:15	Non_Traditional Program Middle	9:30	Smithsburg MS		8:35			
John Poole MS		7:55	Oxon Hill MS	8:30	Springfield MS		7:20			
Thomas W. Pyle MS	8:15		Samuel Ogle MS	9:30	Wester Heights MS	7:20	7.20			
Redland MS		8:15	Sonia Sotomayor MS @Adelphi	9:30	Trester freighte ivid	,.20				
Ridgeview MS		8:15	Stephen Decatur MS	9:30						



#### Average Charter Middle/High School Start Time 8:21:22 AM **Charter School Name (schools serving K-8 excluded)** Grades **Start Time** Baltimore Leadership School For Young Women, Baltimore MD 6-8 8:15:00 AM Baltimore Leadership School For Young Women, Baltimore MD 9-12 8:30:00 AM Chesapeake Math & IT Public Charter Middle School - North, Laurel MD 6-8 7:55:00 AM Chesapeake Math & IT Public Charter High School - North, Laurel MD 9-12 7:55:00 AM Chesapeake Math & IT Public Charter - South, Upper Marlboro MD 6-12 8:20:00 AM Chesapeake Science Point, Hanover MD 6-12 8:20:00 AM City Neighbors High School, Baltimore MD 9-12 9:00:00 AM College Park Academy, Hyattsville MD 6-12 8:25:00 AM ConneXions Community Leadership Academy 6-12 9:00:00 AM Coppin Academy High School, Baltimore MD 9-12 8:00:00 AM Green Street Academy, Baltimore MD 9-12 8:15:00 AM