
5-17-22 APS Elementary Family Feedback Requested & Start Time Information

APS Superintendent <ehoman@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 11:12 AM

Reply-To: ehoman@arlington.k12.ma.us

To: KFitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us

Dear Arlington Public Schools Elementary School Families,

I am writing with a request for feedback from the community on potential before-school care options for APS Elementary School Families. I am also writing to provide some follow-up information to last week's update regarding elementary school start times.

Your Feedback Wanted Regarding Elementary Before-School Care: The Arlington Public Schools are examining the feasibility of launching before-school care options for families. If before-school care is something you would like us to consider implementing, please take a few minutes to indicate your interest on this [short survey](#).

Elementary Start Time Adjustment: In [this message](#) last week, I indicated that APS intends to move the start of the day for K-5 elementary schools this fall to 8:00 a.m., pending contract ratification by the Arlington Education Association and approval of the Arlington School Committee. The 2022-23 School Calendar is available [here](#) and on our website. We have received the following questions about the adjustment:

Why add time before school, and not after school?

We considered adding time at the end of the school day; however, this approach would have impacted programming at all schools and levels in the district due to transportation and the start and end times of other schools. Furthermore, adding time at the start of the school day added an additional 6 hours/year of instructional time compared to a comparable later release time, due to weekly elementary early release.

Don't studies show that young people benefit from a later school day?

Yes, studies indicate that this is the case for adolescent brain development, which is why many schools in the Commonwealth and across the country have shifted secondary start times to be later in the day and adjusted elementary start times to be earlier in the day; in fact, Arlington made this adjustment in 2020.

Will bus transportation times be impacted?

Bus transportation times for our Boston-resident students should not be significantly impacted by this adjustment. Bus transportation times for Arlington-resident students may be moved up by a few minutes to accommodate this change. Furthermore, this change will improve the ability of our transportation department to transport 6th grade students from their elementary schools to Gibbs for an on-time start.

It is our intention to have elementary students in their classrooms, ready to learn at 8am each day in the 2022-23 school year. We recognize that this adjustment may create challenges for some families, and are committed to supporting families through this transition. Please do not hesitate to reach out to school or district administration with any questions. Thank you for your continued partnership, and have a wonderful week.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth C. Homan, Ph.D.

Superintendent, Arlington Public Schools

****This message is automatically translated based on families' documented preferred home language. To change the language in which you receive APS communications, please contact your child's school.****

