START/END TIME STUDY GROUP



WELCOME



Dr. Jim McMullen, Deputy Superintendent



Thank you for serving on our Start/End time study group (SESG).



Our study group is made up of approximately 75 parents, 75 teachers, 10 classified staff, building administrators, **and district** staff.



We appreciate your willingness to serve on our study group.



Study Group norms...confidentiality, photos, sharing, etc.

A MESSAGE FROM DR. YEAGER



Watch on YouTube: https://youtu.be/7Cj0o0dUc8c

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

Welcome

Introductions

Engagement Activity

Review the work that took place*

Learn about our transportation needs

Bell Schedule adjustment options

Timeline and process

Preview our next meeting

WHAT ISN'T ON THE AGENDA?

4 Day School Week

ACTIVITY: Get to know each other

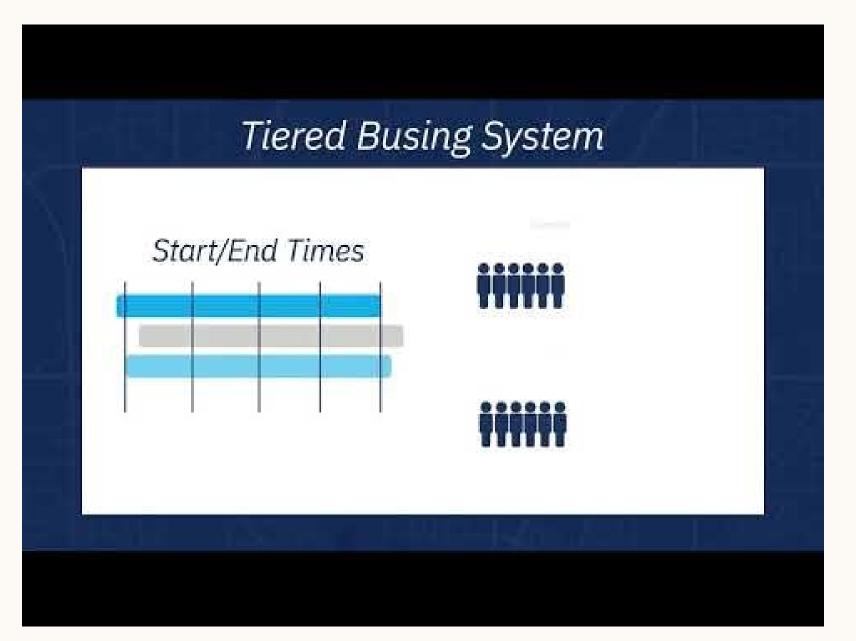


Please stand up, turn to someone close to you, preferably someone in the room whom you don't know. Pair up...



Next, introduce yourself, explain your "why" you are here, and why you feel you have a good perspective to offer.

LET'S START WITH THE WHY...



LET'S REVIEW THE WORK THAT TOOK PLACE LAST YEAR

Buckle up...there was a lot of work to share with you!

TRANSPORTATION 101...



Olathe Public Schools provides transportation for students in accordance with Kansas statute, Board of Education policy and various Special Services for Early Childhood through Post-Graduate students.



Our bus transportation provider is DS Bus Lines, whom the district has used since 2020. DS Bus Lines provides transportation for students to and from school, early childhood, Head Start and Jumpstart, special services, 21st Century Academies, and other programs.



Our contract
transportation service
is Assisted
Transportation, who
provides
transportation for
McKinney-Vento,
Foster Care, ELL, and
other programs.



The district has a transportation department who works closely with families, schools, and our service providers. They are:

Director of Transportation

Jennia Peguero Lead Transportation Specialist (Early Childhood)

Dona Nelson Transportation Specialist (GenEd/Fin.)

Patty Prendes
Transportation Specialist (Special Services)

Stephanie Kappelman Administrative Secretary

DS BUS LINES STUDENT RIDERSHIP

2022-2023

General Education 6,644 Riders

2,164 - Over 2.5 Miles

3,591 - Payride

53% qualify for free busing through

the Federal Free & Reduced Program

779 - 21st Century

Academies

110 - ELL

Special Services 783 Riders

351 - K-21 + KSD &

Lakemary

219 - Early Childhood

Special

Services

127 - Head Start

86 - Jumpstart

Olathe Advanced Technical Center - Mill Creek Center McKinney-Vento - Foster

ASSISTED TRANSPORTATION STUDENT RIDERSHIP

2022-23

Traditional Alternative Routes

- Day Shuttles ~ 619 trips per day
- Special Services Home to School 55
- McKinney-Vento Home to School 32
- Foster Home to School 1

Additional Support for 2022-2023

- General Education Home to School
 37
- Special Services Home to School 108
- ELL Home to School 3
- Sports Shuttles

CURRENT CHALLENGES (22/23)

2-Tier Bell Schedule = **High Driver Demand**

Number of Routes = **182**

Number of Drivers = **155**

Current Driver Shortage = -27

covered by office staff, substitute drivers & Assisted Transportation

22-23 SCHOOL YEAR REALITY DUE TO THE DRIVER SHORTAGE (1)

- Rolling Blackouts for Payride Bus Routes
- Middle School & High School students combined on the same bus.
- One driver serving more than one bus route for the same school.
- GenEd & SpEd routes arriving later than the published stop time.
 - Averaging 6 GenEd & 5 SpEd daily
- Middle School and Elementary School buses arriving late for school dismissal.
 - Averaging 9 GenEd & 5 SpEd daily
- Extended ride time for students at all levels.

22-23 SCHOOL YEAR REALITY DUE TO THE DRIVER SHORTAGE

- Routes at higher capacities requiring 3 students per seat.
- Eligible students on a wait list for several schools.
- Assisted Transportation is covering routes for 21st Century routes, 9 middle schools and 12 elementary schools at a premium cost.
- No driver availability for out-of-town trips such as college visits, enrichment, or state tournaments.
- Students required to leave school earlier than necessary for athletic/activity trips, approx. 1:30-2pm
- Limited availability to serve McKinney-Vento and Foster students residing outside OPS boundary.

22-23 PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS

Eliminate pay rider program - affects 3,500+ students, 53% of whom qualify for Free/Reduced lunch Eliminate transportation services for 21st Century HS programs (779 students in grades 9-12 who may not be enrolled in their program).

Eliminate district safety variances – affects 1,668+ students Eliminate transportation for Head Start and Jumpstart programing – affects 224+ students

Continue and expand the rolling blackout option we are currently piloting this semester.

Explore a bell schedule adjustment to create a 3-tier transportation system.

WHY IMPLEMENT 3-TIER BELL SCHEDULE

Route Efficiency

- Permanent driver for almost all routes with current staff count
- Provide service for all eligible riders no wait list
- Eliminate combined HS/MS routes
- Lower capacity per bus safer routes, manageable for drivers
- Shorter ride time
- Potential for additional trip availability more time in class
- Allows for district growth

Cost Reduction/Avoidance

- One bus serves up to three building levels = add value through availability
- Almost all buses will be able to serve 2 levels
- Smaller bus fleet = potential reduction of overhead cost
- Fewer miles= lower fuel cost
- No need to utilize a 3rd party transit vendor for bus routes
- Bus pricing on the rise (fuel, wages, and bus driver union negotiations

Current Bell Schedule

7:50am - 3:10pm

Middle School

8:00am - 3:00pm

High School

Elementary School

HMC & HLC

8:20am - 3:40pm

KANSAS DISTRICTS



SHAWNEE MISSION

- High 7:40am 2:40pm
- Elem 8:10am 3:10pm
- Middle 8:45am 3:45pm
- *All routes under 2.5 miles require 50+ riders per route.
- *New Jan. 2023 high school mileage eligibility reduced to 2.0 miles

Provider: DS Bus Lines

Standard Rate \$320.00



BLUE VALLEY

- High 7:40am 2:45pm
- Middle 7:51am 3:00pm
- Elem. 8:40am 3:45pm

*New for 2022-2023 – reduced service area for middle & high school students and extended walking distance to bus stops due to driver shortage.

Provider: Durham

Standard Rate \$370.00



WICHITA

- High/Middle 7:10am 2:10pm
- Middle/High 8:10am 3:10pm
- Elementary 9:00am 4:10pm

*Partner with Wichita Transit to provide bus routes in lieu of a traditional school bus.

*No transportation offered for students under 2.5 miles on a traditional school bus.

Provider: First Student

High School & PLC

7:30am - 2:30pm

43 min.

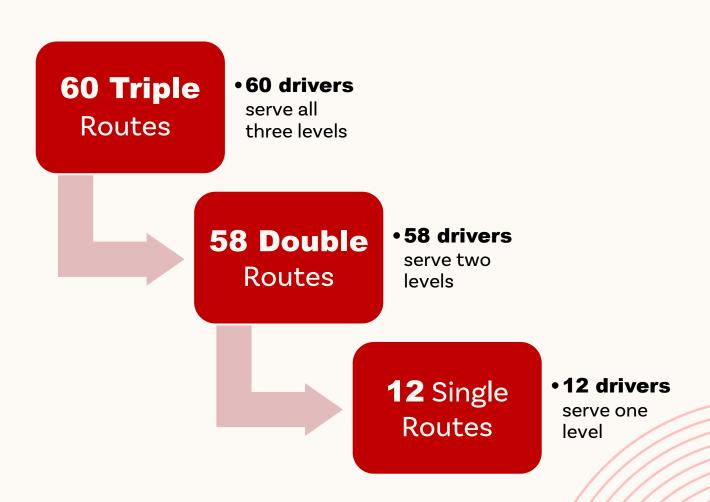
Middle School & HLC 8:00am - 3:20pm

33 min.

Elementary School & HMC 8:40am - 4:00pm

3-TIER EXAMPLE

- Fully staffed by current driver count
- Maintains current transportation access to all eligible students
- Provides optimum route time for 21st Century Academy routes
- Lower capacities per bus
- Reduces ride time
- Allows for district growth



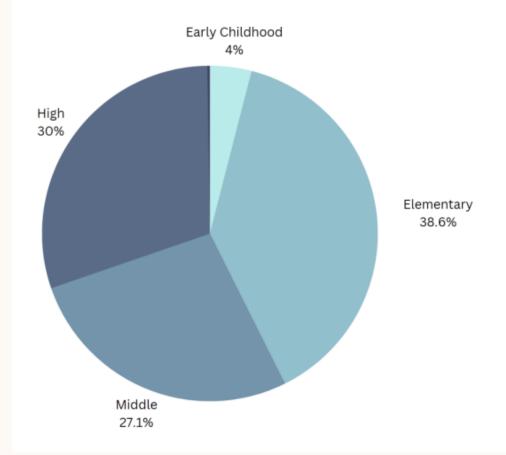




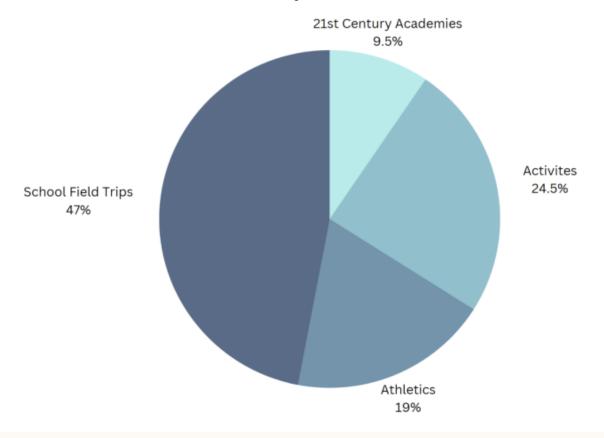
OPS Start/End Time Survey Results

Total Responses: 6,233

Which grade level best describes your child?

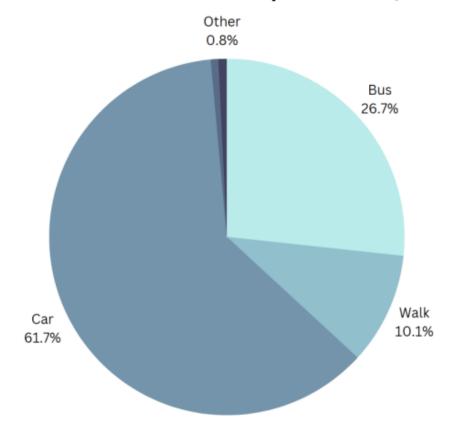


Is your child involved in any of the following programs or activities that utilize transportation?

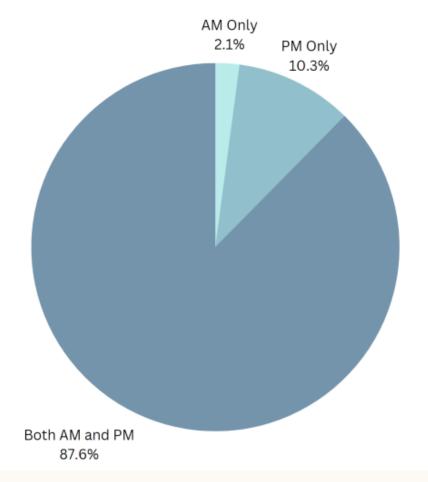


Modes of Transportation

Which mode of transportation is your child's PRIMARY mode of transportation to/from school?

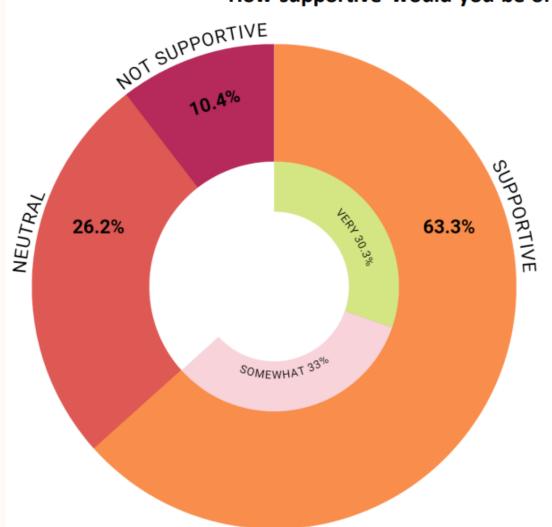


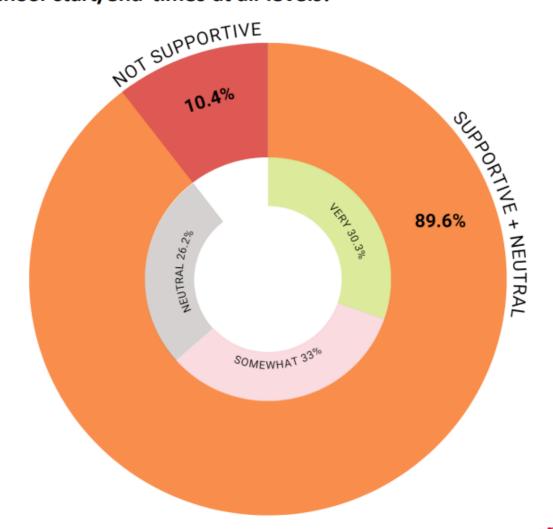
When does your child ride the bus?



Level of Support

How supportive would you be of adjusting school start/end times at all levels?



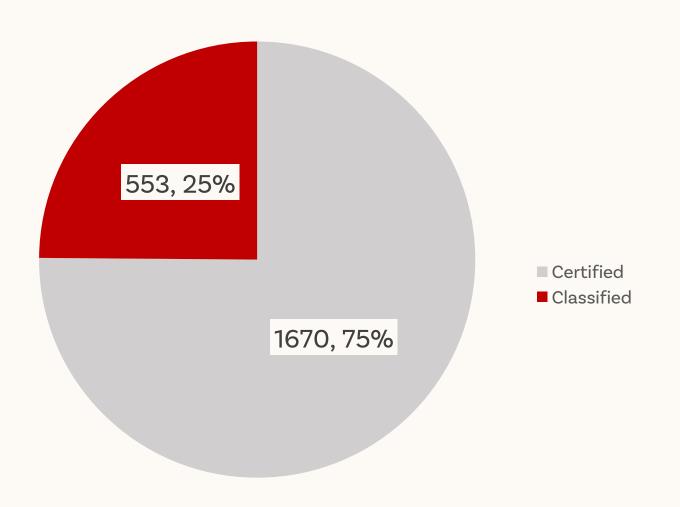


PARENT SURVEY 1 KEY TAKEAWAYS

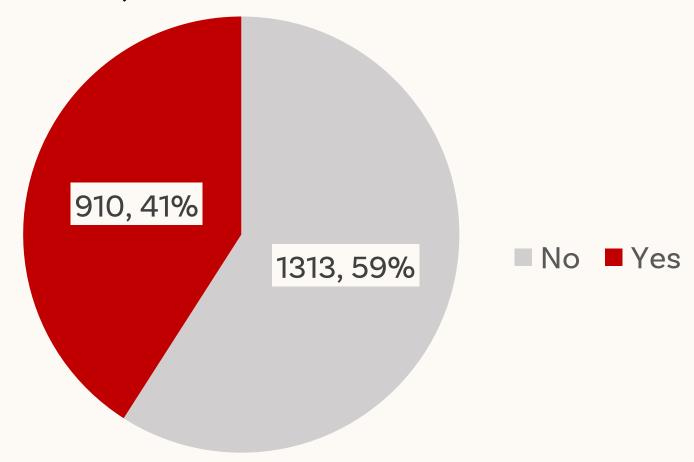
- Over 6,000 responses
- Our community understood the need to have the conversation
- Our community needed more specific information



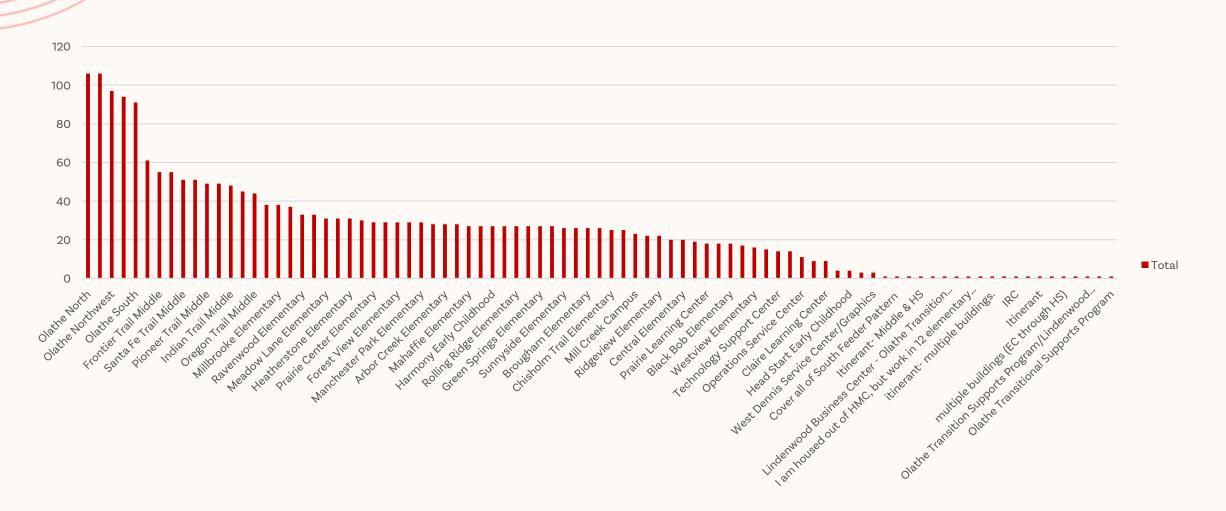
WHAT TYPE OF POSITION DO YOU HOLD IN THE OLATHE PUBLIC SCHOOLS?



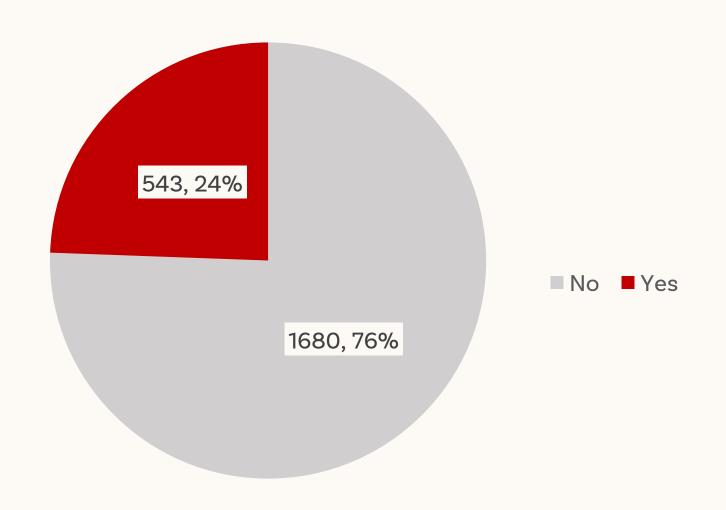
DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN WHO CURRENTLY ATTEND, OR WILL ATTEND, OLATHE PUBLIC SCHOOLS?



WHICH BUILDING DO YOU WORK IN?

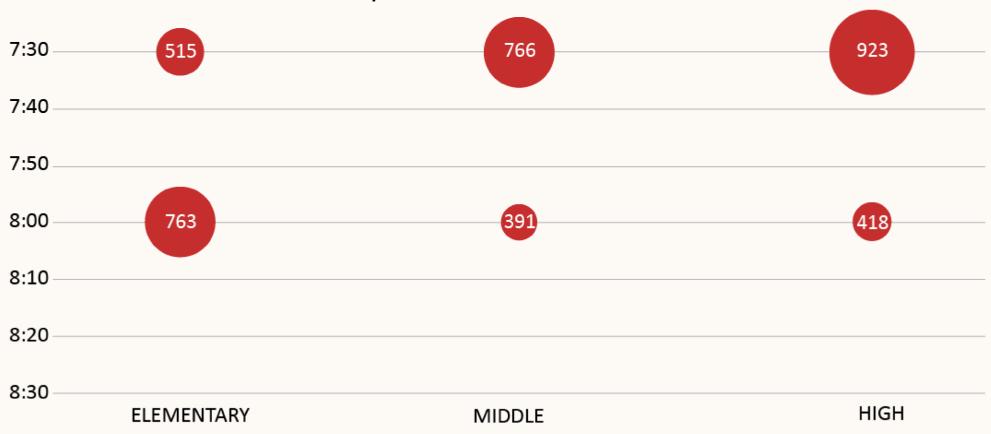


DO YOU SERVE AS A COACH OR SPONSOR FOR ANY BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES/ EXTRACURRICULARS/ETC.?



WHAT IS THE EARLIEST START TIME YOU WOULD SUPPORT?

Top Two EARLIEST Start Time Votes



WHAT IS THE LATEST DISMISSAL TIME YOU WOULD SUPPORT?

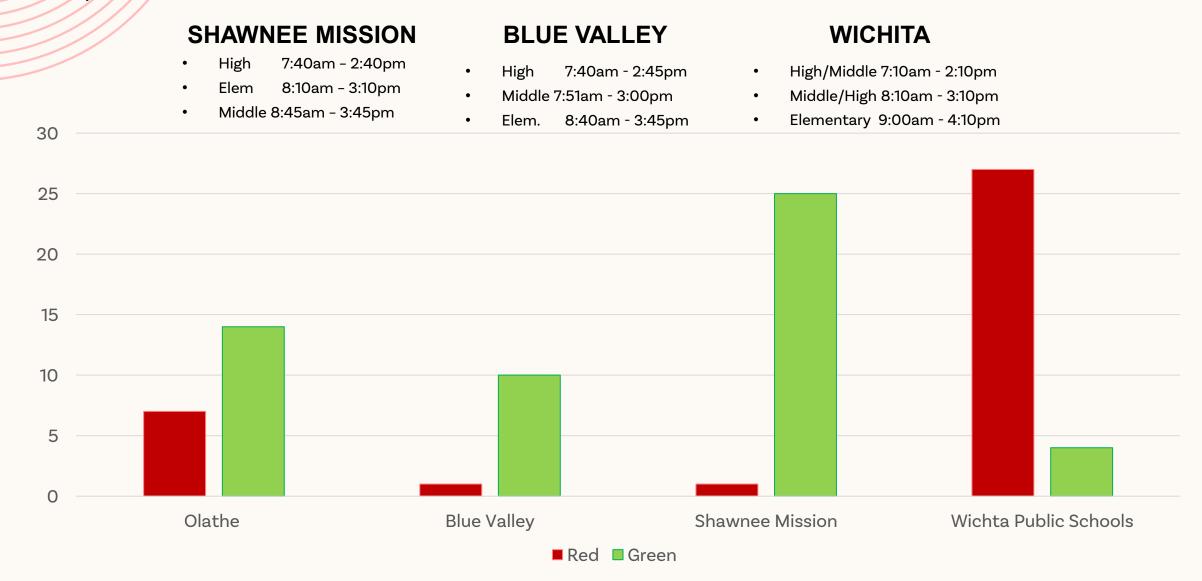
Top LATEST Dismissal Time Votes



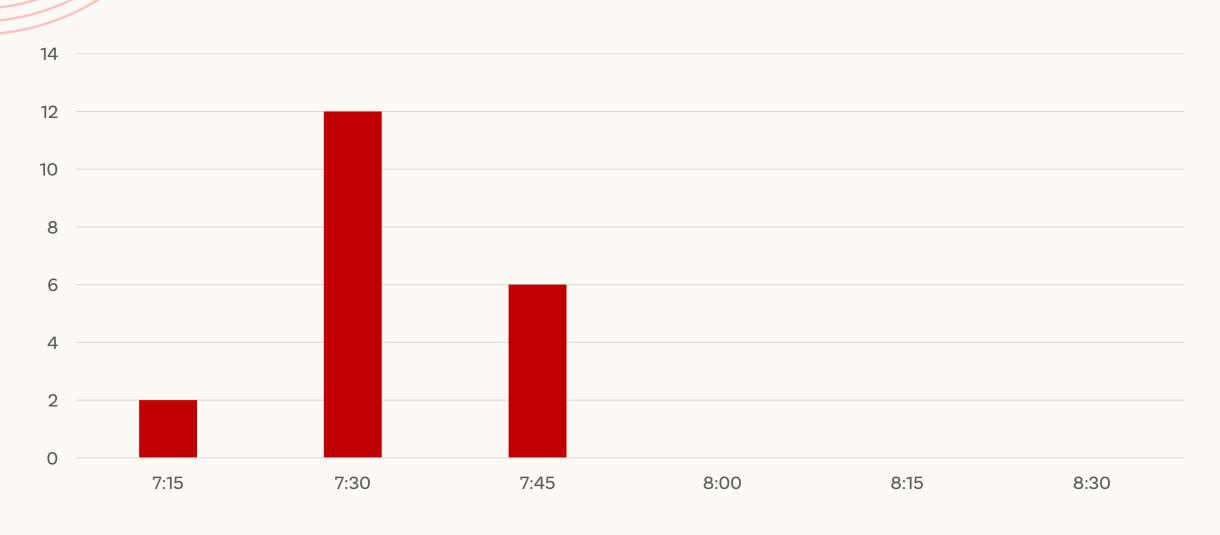
STUDENT DATA FROM SSAC **FEB 2023**

DOT ACTIVITY - BELL TIME COMPARISON

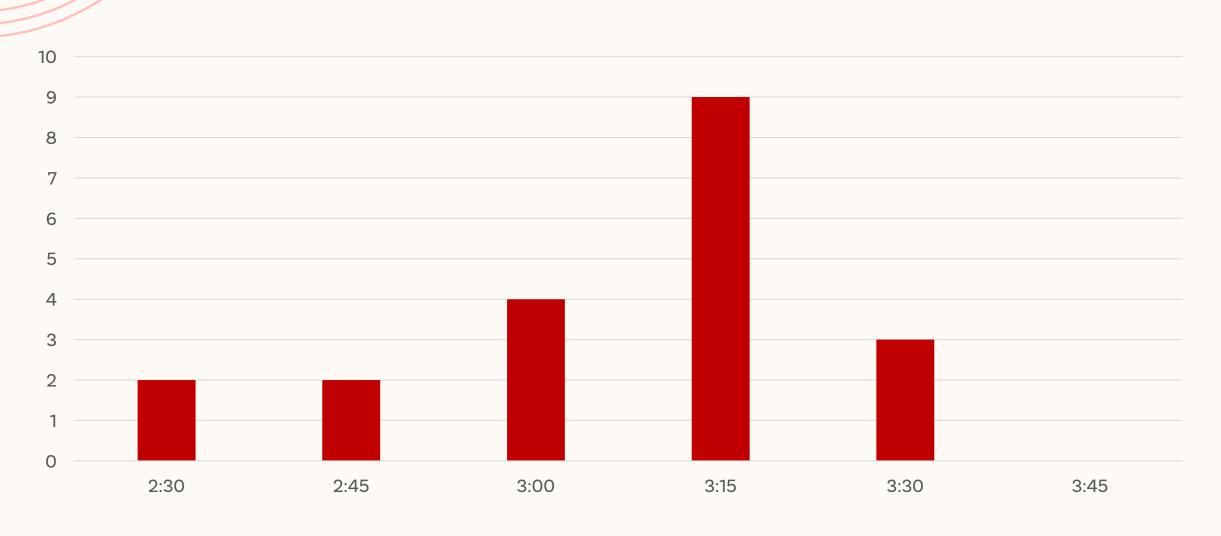
SSAC Students were asked to mark their most preferred schedule with a green dot and their least preferred with a red dot.



STUDENT INPUT - EARLIEST START TIME

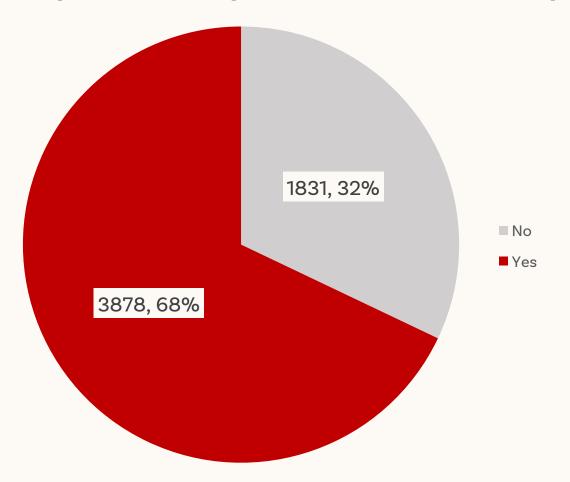


STUDENT INPUT - LATEST DISMISSAL TIME

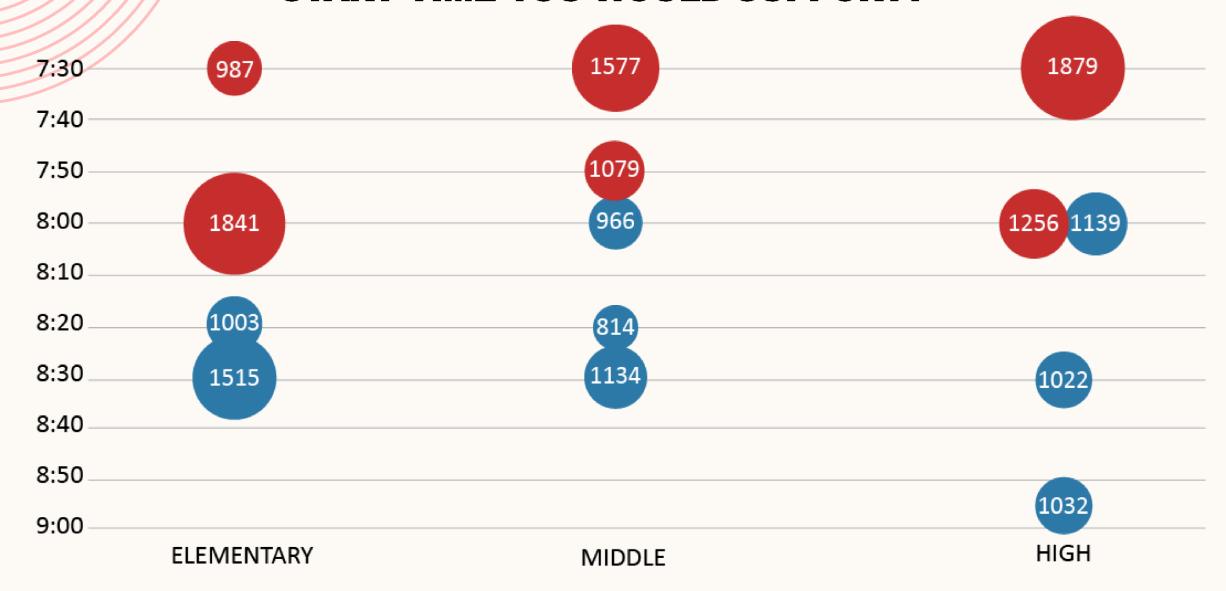


PARENT SURVEY DATA FEB 2023

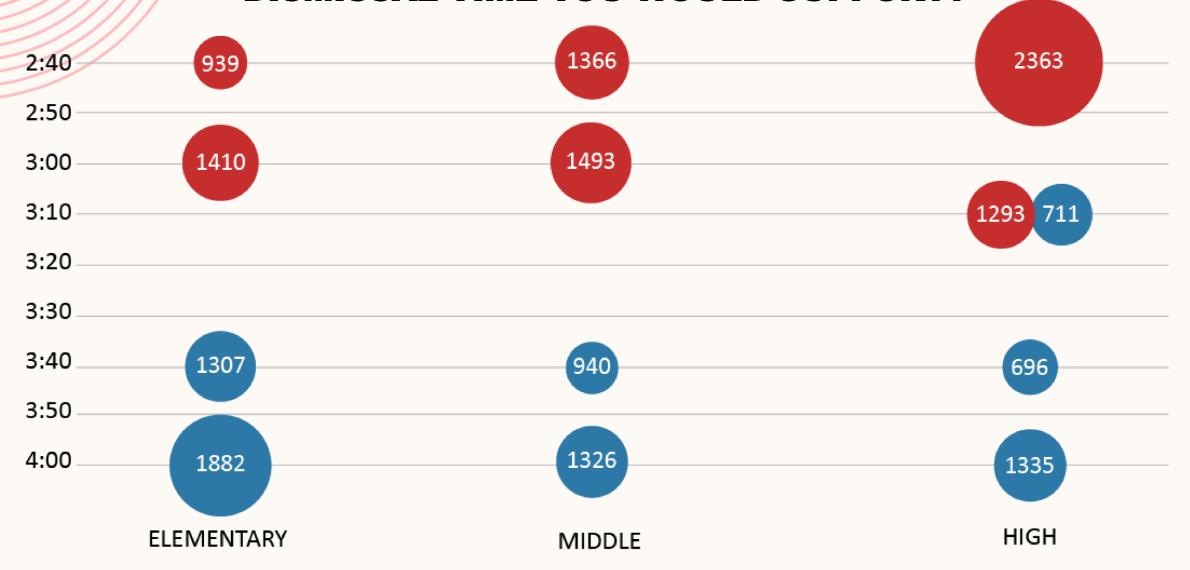
DOES YOUR CHILD PARTICIPATE IN ANY BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES/EXTRACURRICULARS/ETC.?



TOP VOTES FOR THE EARLIEST AND LATEST START TIME YOU WOULD SUPPORT?



COUNT OF WHAT IS THE EARLIEST AND LATEST DISMISSAL TIME YOU WOULD SUPPORT?



OVERVIEW OF ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

Mr. Matt Johnson
Director of Athletic/Activities

ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES 101...



Impact of Bell Schedule on Athletics and Activities



· High school marching bands practice before school and during their 1st hour class. Typically, they start these practices at 7:00 am on their outdoor football field on campus.



· Our boys and girls swim/dive teams often practice before school at our middle schools. These practices typically start between 5:30-6:00 am



· High school dance teams will often practice before school in the high school gyms outside of the marching season (winter and spring). These practices typically start at 7:00 am



· Middle school sports practices can happen before school, but usually are after school. These typically start at 3:30

ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES 101...(2)

In our current 2-Tier system we cannot use any bus charters between 2:00 and 4:00. All drivers need to be available to run bus routes for the schools. This likely will not change until additional 'trip only' drivers are hired.



This means high school teams often leave at 1:00 or 1:30 for a game that starts at 5:00 or 5:30 and will need to be housed at the school they are traveling to for a study hall.



Middle school athletic events usually begin at 3:30. Football is the one sport that is impacted by sunset due to playing extra quarters or B games after the A game.



High school athletic events occur at varying times and can start as early as 4:00 pm and as late as 7:30 pm during the week



The Sunflower League has 14 schools that require travel

5 Olathe High Schools

5 Shawnee Mission High Schools

Gardner-Edgerton, Mill Valley, and 2 Lawrence HS's



2022-2023 CONCLUSIONS

Bell Schedule study group looked at 20 different bell schedule options and gave feedback to district leadership.

A new bell schedule was recommended to the BOE in April 2023.

The action item was pulled as the feedback indicated our community (parents and staff) were not quite there yet.

In May 2023 the list of transportation interventions were presented to the BOE.

Direction was given to resume the bell schedule change in early fall, 2023.

TRANSPORTATION INTERVENTIONS FOR 2023-2024

Ĥ	Eliminate payride services for MS and HS students	HS and MS route reduction = 25+* ES will continue to offer payride services (1.0-2.4 miles)
č	Offer access to 21st Century/OATC/MCC on a payride basis.	Potential route reduction = 10+*
%	Eliminate Safety Variances - remove all variances where improvements to walking/biking accessibility have been completed or traffic signals with pedestrian crossings currently exist.	
	Require a minimum number of students t	o establish a payride bus route.
	Limits on field trip requests per day (including reduced time for trips).	
×	Utilize rolling blackouts as needed.	
	Maintain standard safety capacities.	

Rates:

Standard rate = \$290 Earlybird rate = \$217.50

- No increase in fees since 2014-1
- Lowest bus rate in JoCo

5-MINUTE BREAK

OUR TASK AHEAD...



Let's look at our transportation needs, routing, staffing, and other data



Review two new start/end time options



Preview the timeline for action



Look at our next meeting

OVERVIEW OF TRANSPORTATION ROUTING & STAFFING

Mrs. Olivia Malone

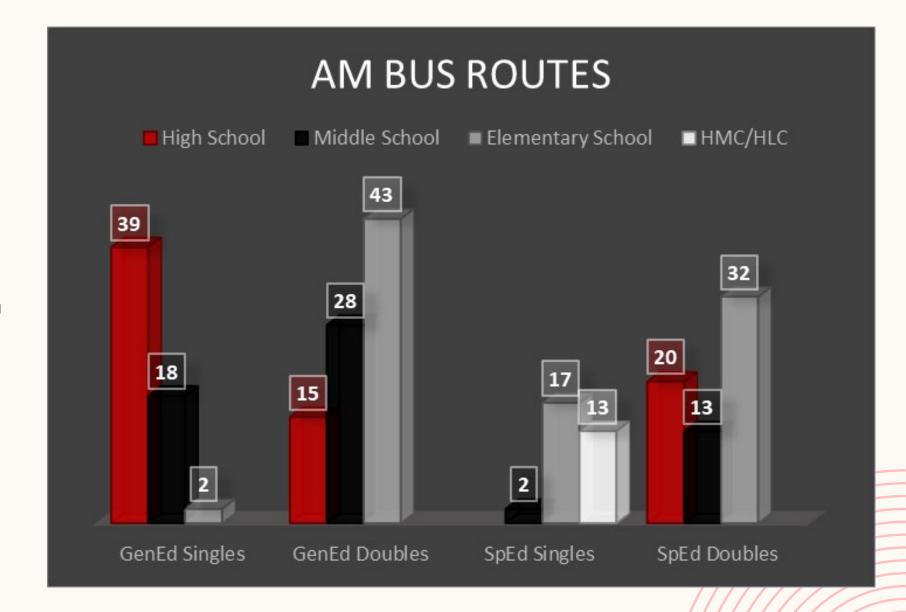
Director of

Transportation Services

ROUTING 101...

2022-2023

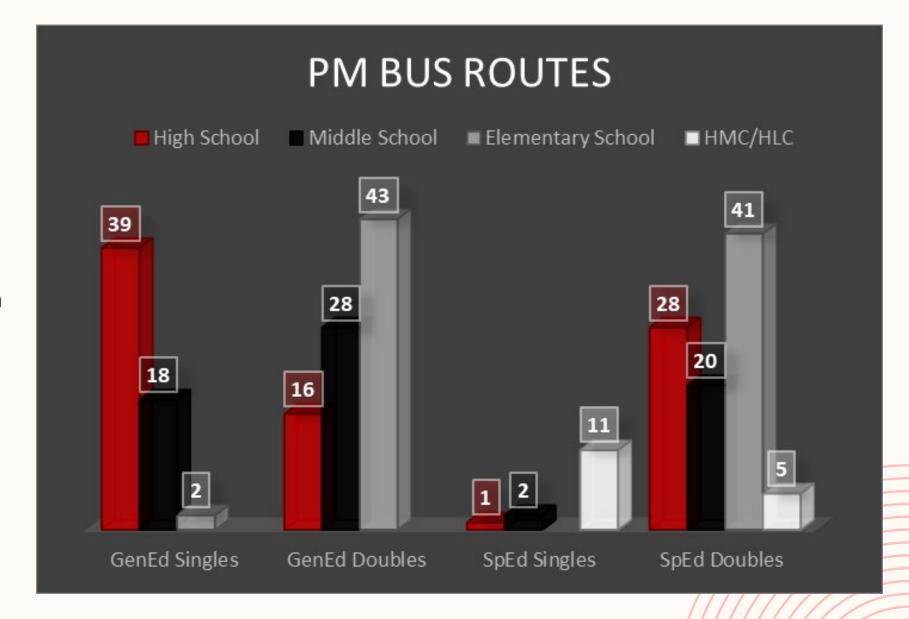
- Almost all elementary buses are doubled with secondary buses due to ample route time between dismissal
- HMC & HLC are all single routes due to large geographic area



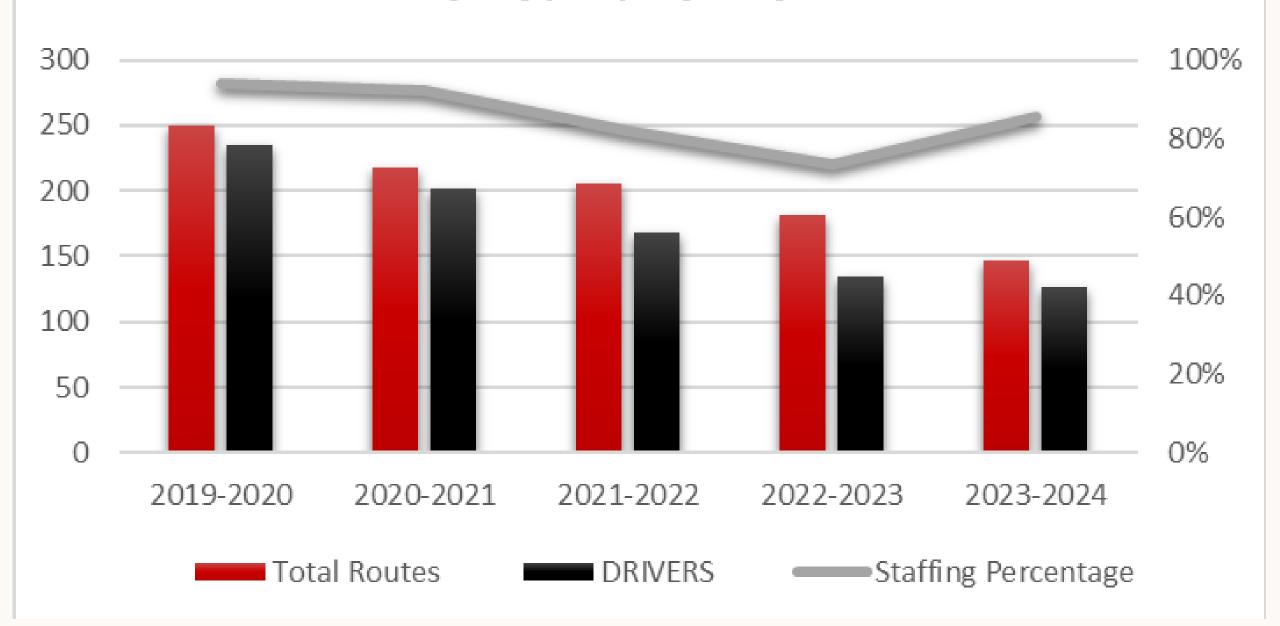
ROUTING 101...

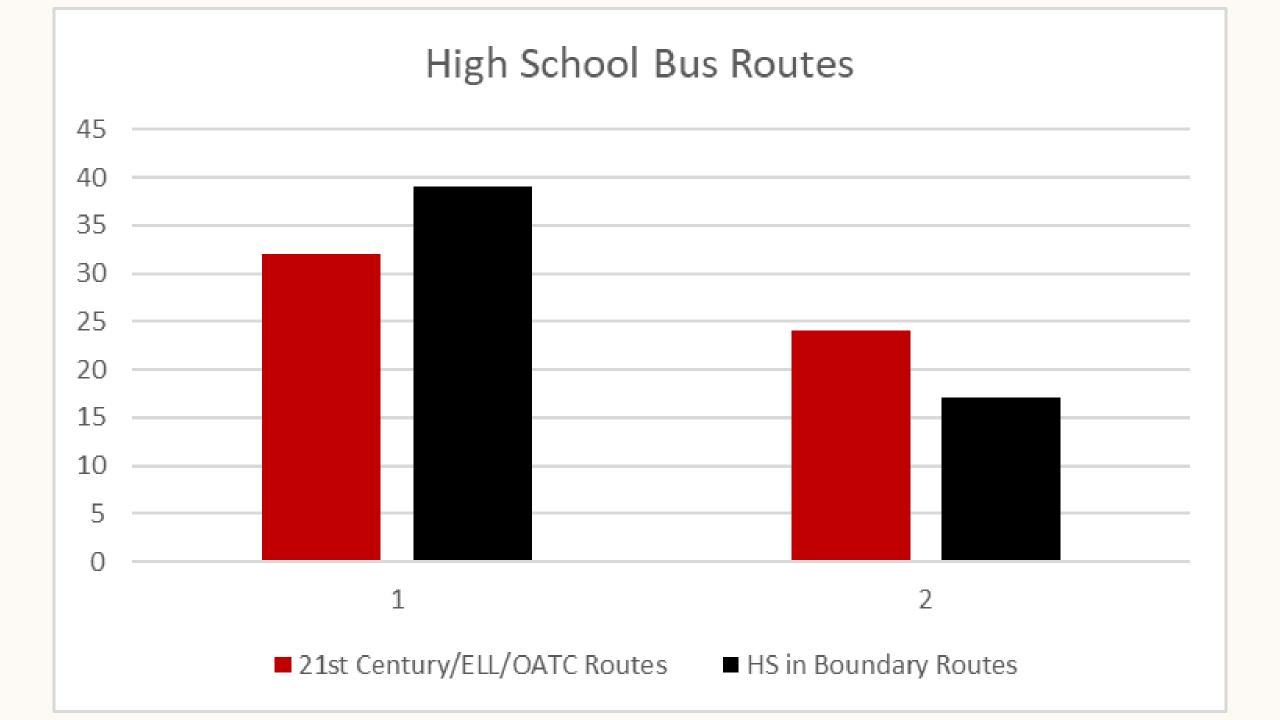
2022-2023

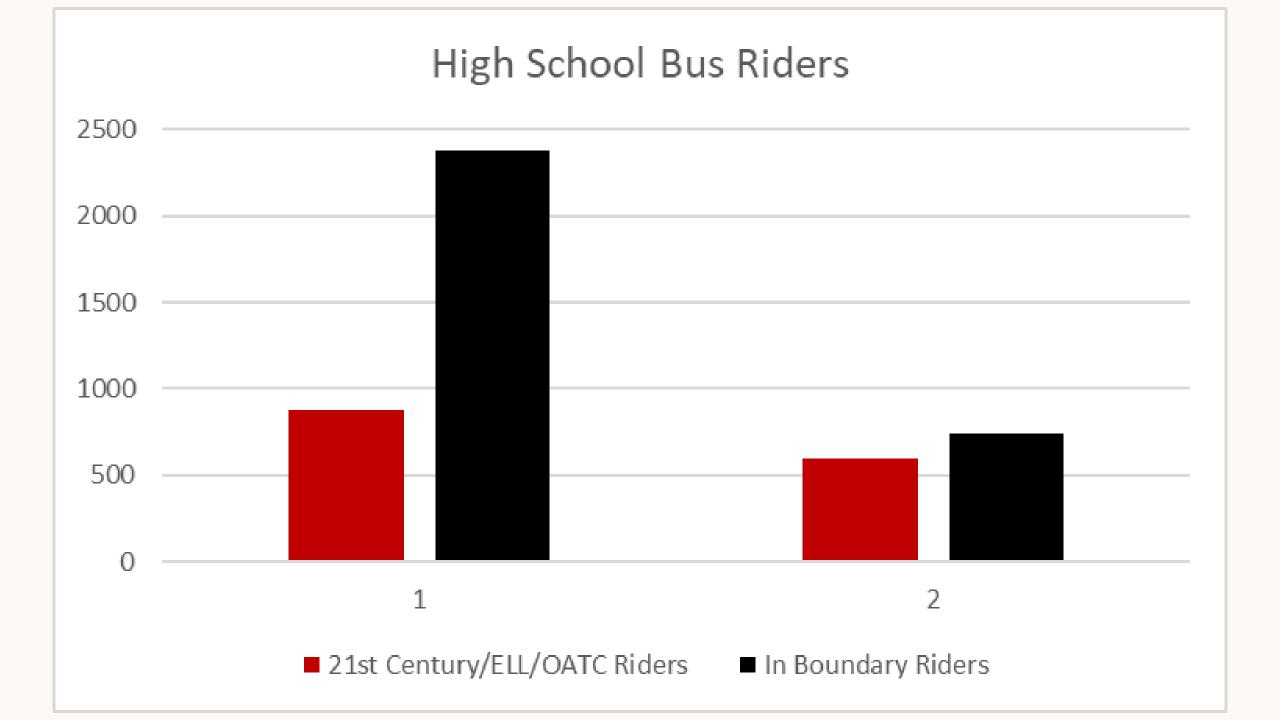
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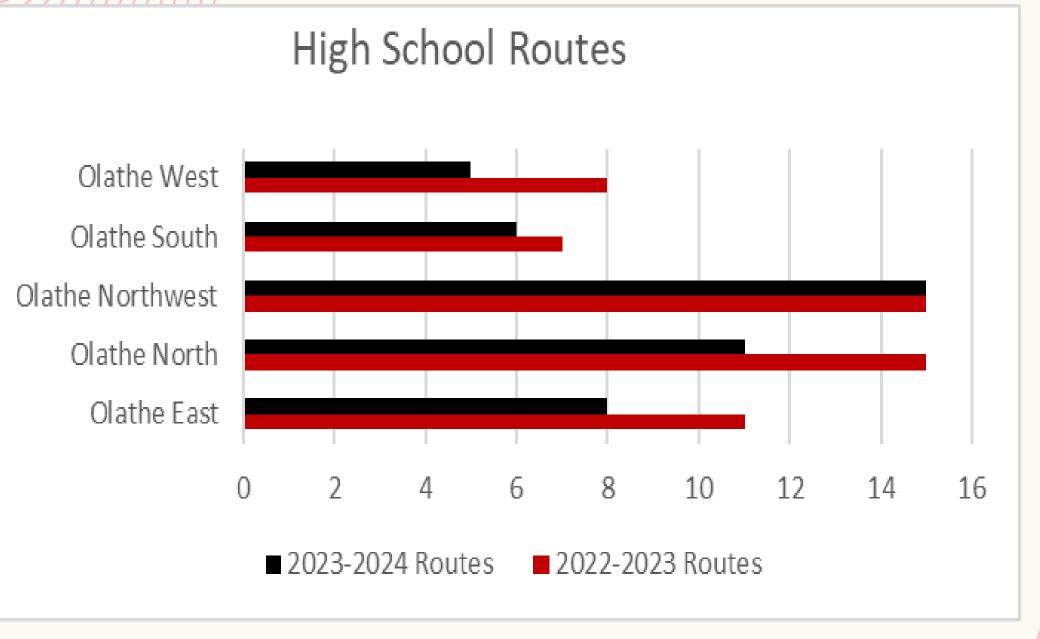


5 Year Overview









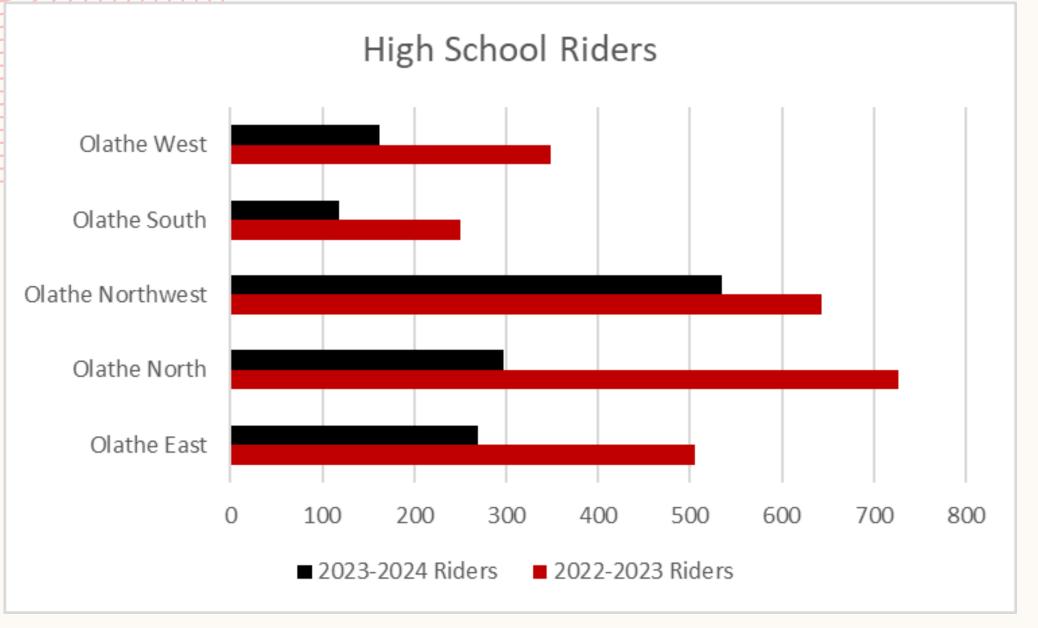
2022-2023

Total Routes = 56

2023-2024

Total Routes = 45

Total Reduction Routes = 11



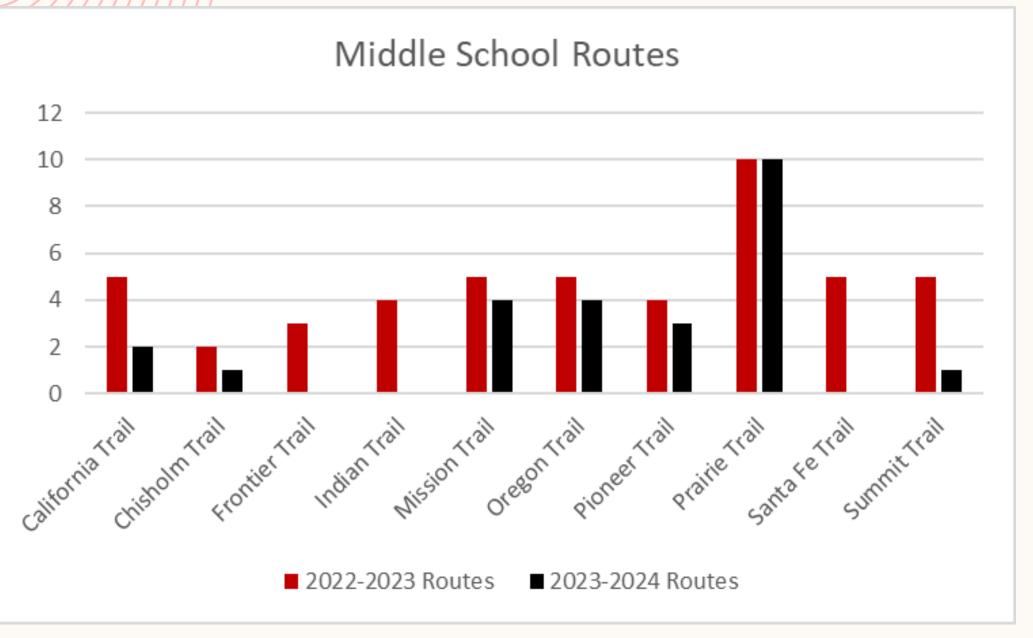
2022-2023

Total Riders = 2,472

2023-2024

Total Riders = 1,380

Total Reduction Riders = 1,092



2022-2023

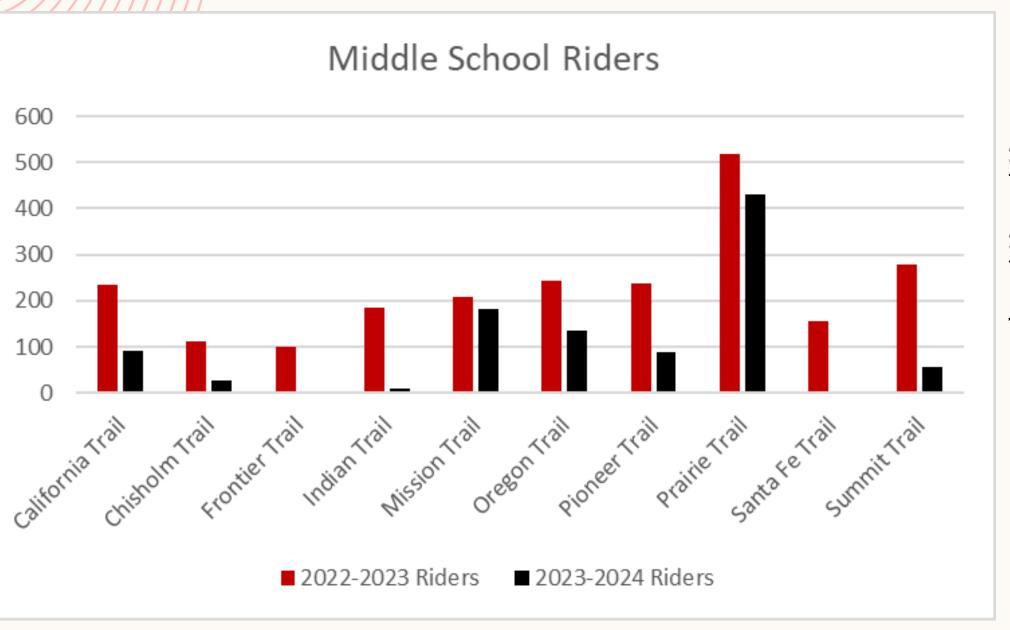
Total Routes = 48

2023-2024

Total Routes = 25

Total Reduction

Routes = 23



2022-2023 Total Riders = 2,277

2023-2024Total Riders = 1,021

Total Reduction Riders = 1,256

DS BUS LINES STUDENT RIDERSHIP COMPARISON

2022-2023 GenEd

6,644 Riders

*53% qualify for free busing through the Federal Free & Reduced Program

2023-2024 GenEd

3,945 Riders

*33% qualify for free busing through the Federal Free & Reduced Program

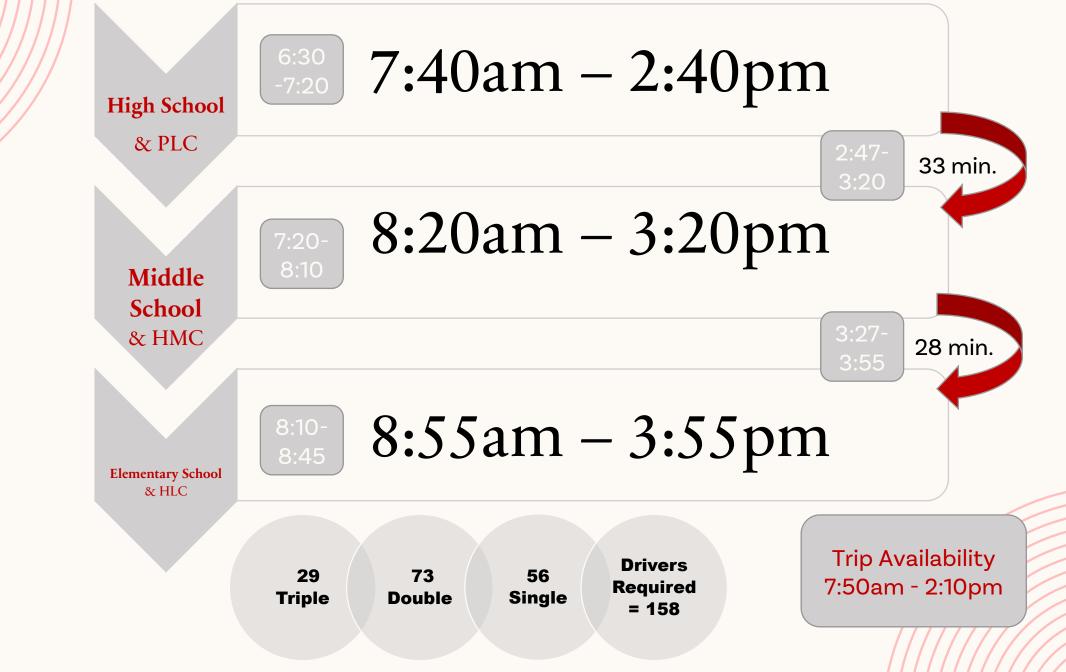
Total Rider Reduction = 2,699

START/END TIME OPTIONS WE WILL BE STUDYING

Reminder, no pictures please!

HIGH SCHOOL 1ST TIER

- High School requires the largest number of drivers due to student need and greatest distance from the school building.
- Routes serving 21st Century, OATC & ELL students require the lengthiest route time & distance and may only be retained if high school is the 1st Tier.
- Maintaining HS as the 1st Tier allows drivers to serve 2 or 3 tiers rather than just high school.
- Produces driver availability for sports shuttles from high schools to CBAC, ODAC & Black Bob Park
- Produces driver availability for transportation to The Spot from select schools.
- Minimizes class time loss for students involved in activities and athletics.
- Maintains options for after school employment hours, as students report many employers require "X" amount of hours to guarantee a shift.
- Retains trip availability close to our current option, 7:45 2:00pm.
- Maintains alignment with Sunflower League for athletics and fine arts. KSHSAA fine arts events often begin at 8am. Sunflower League athletic events begin as early as 3pm.
- High school in third tier would require a 7:30am start time for tier 1.



Option

OUR NEXT MEETING (9/26)



Review survey data from:

- Staff
- Parents
- HS and MS students



Break into level groups (EC/ES, MS, and HS) to review the options and discuss pros/cons, solutions to concerns, etc.

TIMELINE



PARENT AND STAFF SURVEY

Parent survey:

https://forms.office.com/r/YUqvhBd3mw

Staff Survey: https://forms.office.com/r/dE

KMj76XCH

FEEDBACK SURVEY



http://bit.ly/3r1YTXl

THANK YOU!

Have a great evening and we will see you all back on the 26th!