

START/END TIME STUDY GROUP

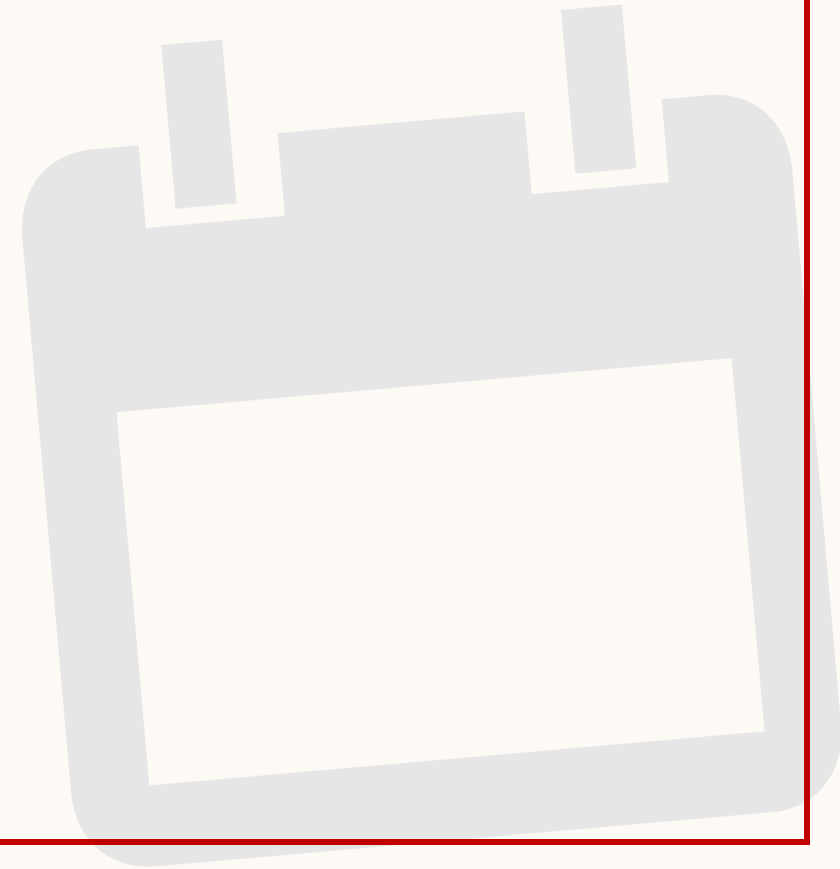
MEETING #2 - SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

WHY?

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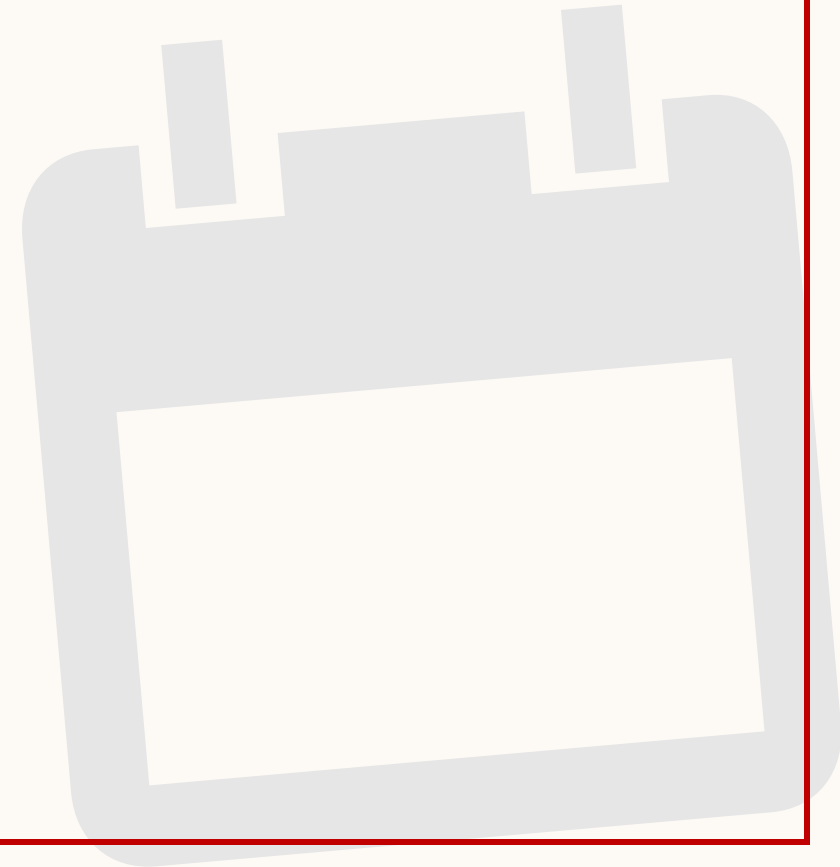
WHY?: Recap

- Access and equity
- Staffing challenges
- The impact on secondary schools
- Long-term strategy
- Systemic change is hard
- Wear your big picture hat tonight



Tonight's agenda

- Review feedback from the SESG
- Follow up on routing times/HS example
- Review MS and HS student input
- Review parent survey data
- Review staff survey data
- Breakout into level groups:
 - EC/Elementary – auditorium
 - Middle school – 6th grade pod (upper level)
 - High school – library (upper level)



Feedback: Start/End Time Presentation 9/12/23

General Feedback:

- Across the board, there's appreciation for the presentation, the leadership, and the thoroughness of the effort put into handling this complex topic.
- Attendees praised the professionalism, efficiency, and transparency, even as some communicated concerns about the drastic differences between options.
- There's unanimous recognition of the need for change and the challenge in finding the best solution.

Feedback: Start/End Time Presentation 9/12/23

Key Points & Questions Raised:

- 1. Stark Differences Between Options:** Concerns were vocalized about the drastic shift in middle school timings between Option A and Option B. While Option A seems manageable with a 15-30 minutes change, Option B's 65-minute shift for middle school is seen as a major disruption.
- 2. Implications of Open Enrollment:** Questions arose about the impact of potential state requirements regarding open enrollment on the proposed changes.
- 3. Bus Schedules & Ridership:** There were queries about:
 - Potential increases in ridership due to time changes.
 - Exact timings of bus routes and duration of rides.
 - Possible use of assisted transport to address driver shortages.
- 4. Before-School Care & Preschool Timings:** Some parents were concerned about the timings of before-school care, especially if elementary starts are delayed. There's also recognition that local preschools might adjust timings based on the district's decision.
- 5. High School Staggered Start:** A suggestion was raised about the possibility of a staggered start for high school to accommodate various needs.
- 6. Teachers' Personal Challenges:** Concerns were expressed about teachers' ability to manage personal schedules, especially those with young children, considering the proposed changes.

Feedback: Start/End Time Presentation 9/12/23

Additional Observations:

1. Attendees displayed empathy towards the leadership, acknowledging the magnitude of the decision.
2. Feedback often emerged from multi-faceted perspectives, indicating roles as parents, teachers, and community members.
3. A strong inclination towards data-driven, equitable decisions that prioritize the greater good.

Concluding Remarks:

The collected feedback paints a portrait of a community that, while acknowledging the urgent need for change, also seeks clarity, thoroughness, and consideration in decision-making. The Olathe community values minimal disruption, informed choices, and the well-being of students, teachers, and families. Transparent communication and addressing raised concerns will be crucial in the forthcoming steps.

High School Routing

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High School Third Tier

6:00 7:00 8:00 9:00 10:00 11:00 12:00 1:00 2:00 3:00 4:00

ES Bus
Operation
6:30-
7:10

Elementary School & HLC

7:25am - 2:25pm

MS Bus
Operation
7:10-
7:50

Middle School & HMC

8:05am - 3:05pm

33
min

HS Bus
Operation
7:50-
8:45

High School & PLC

8:55am - 3:55pm

43
min

148

Current Drivers
2023

163

Drivers Required

53

Triple

70

Double

40

Single

Field Trip Availability
9:05-1:55pm



General Education Routes based on High School at Third Tier

Elementary
School
= 45 buses

Route time range = 16-51 minutes

Middle School
= 46 buses

Route time range = 18-64 minutes

High School
= 57 buses

+ sports shuttles

Route time range = 25-75 minutes

High School has
50% of all single
routes, averaging
64 minutes in
length

Field trip buses available from 9:10 – 1:55pm
reduces opportunity for ES, MS, EC

Limits afternoon JCPRD staffing

Older students not available when younger
siblings dismiss

No bus availability for MS sports until 5pm

Does not align with Sunflower League – students
miss 2+ hours of class time

HS students home approx. 5pm, limits after
school employment and activities

Limits day shuttle availability for SpEd related
services, i.e. CREWS, RISE, CONNECT, CBI

Early Childhood classes in early tiers

Some interventions may be retained

High School Second Tier

6:00 7:00 8:00 9:00 10:00 11:00 12:00 1:00 2:00 3:00 4:00

MS Bus
Operation
**6:30-
7:10**

Middle School & PLC

7:25am - 2:25pm

HS Bus
Operation
**7:10-
7:50**

High School & HMC

8:05am - 3:05pm

33
min

ES Bus
Operation
**7:50-
8:45**

Elementary School & HLC

8:55am - 3:55pm

43
min

148

Current Drivers
2023

158

Drivers Required

39
Triple

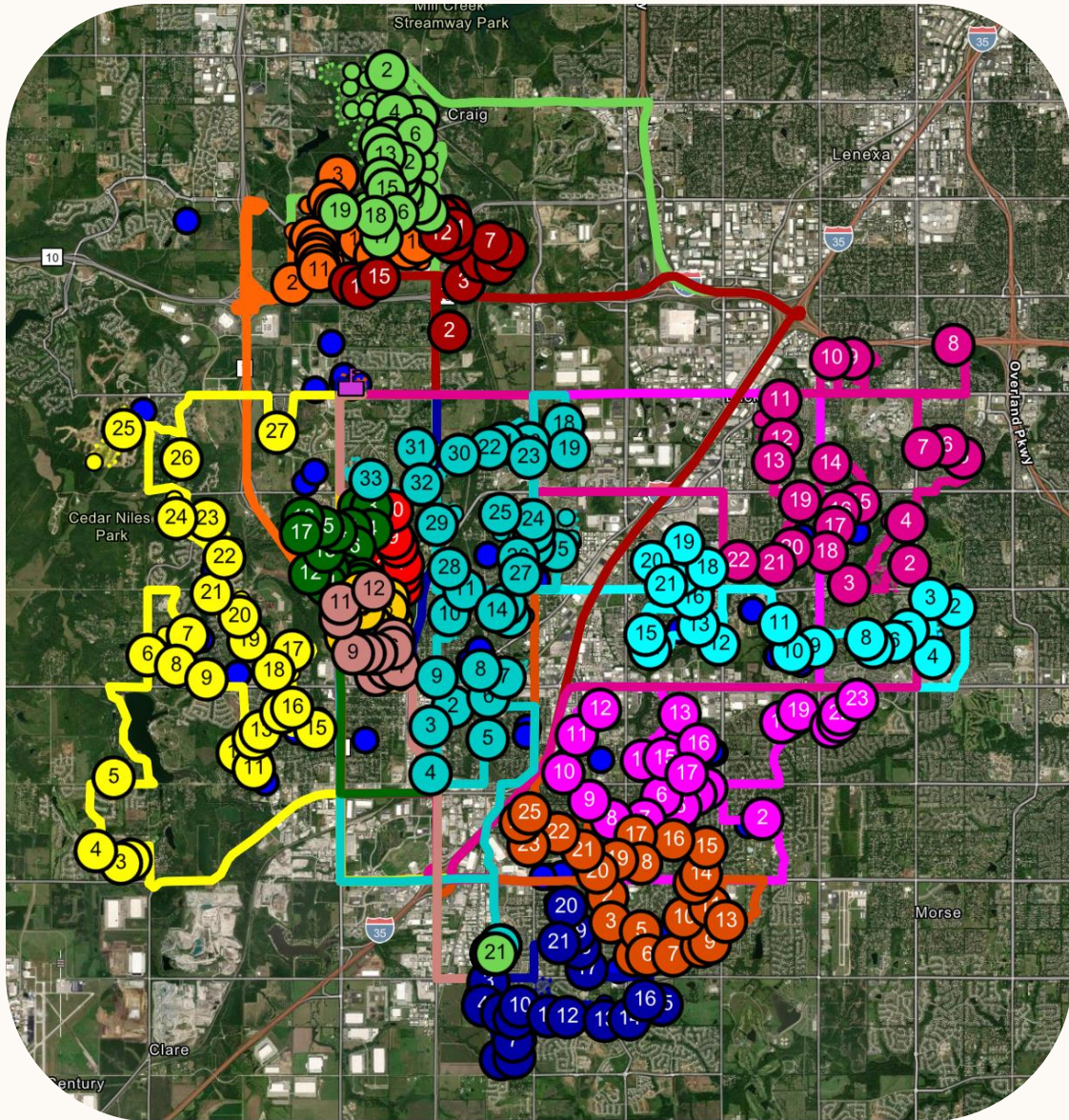
76
Double

54
Single

Field Trip Availability
8:15-1:55pm



Route Example: Olathe Northwest 2022-2023



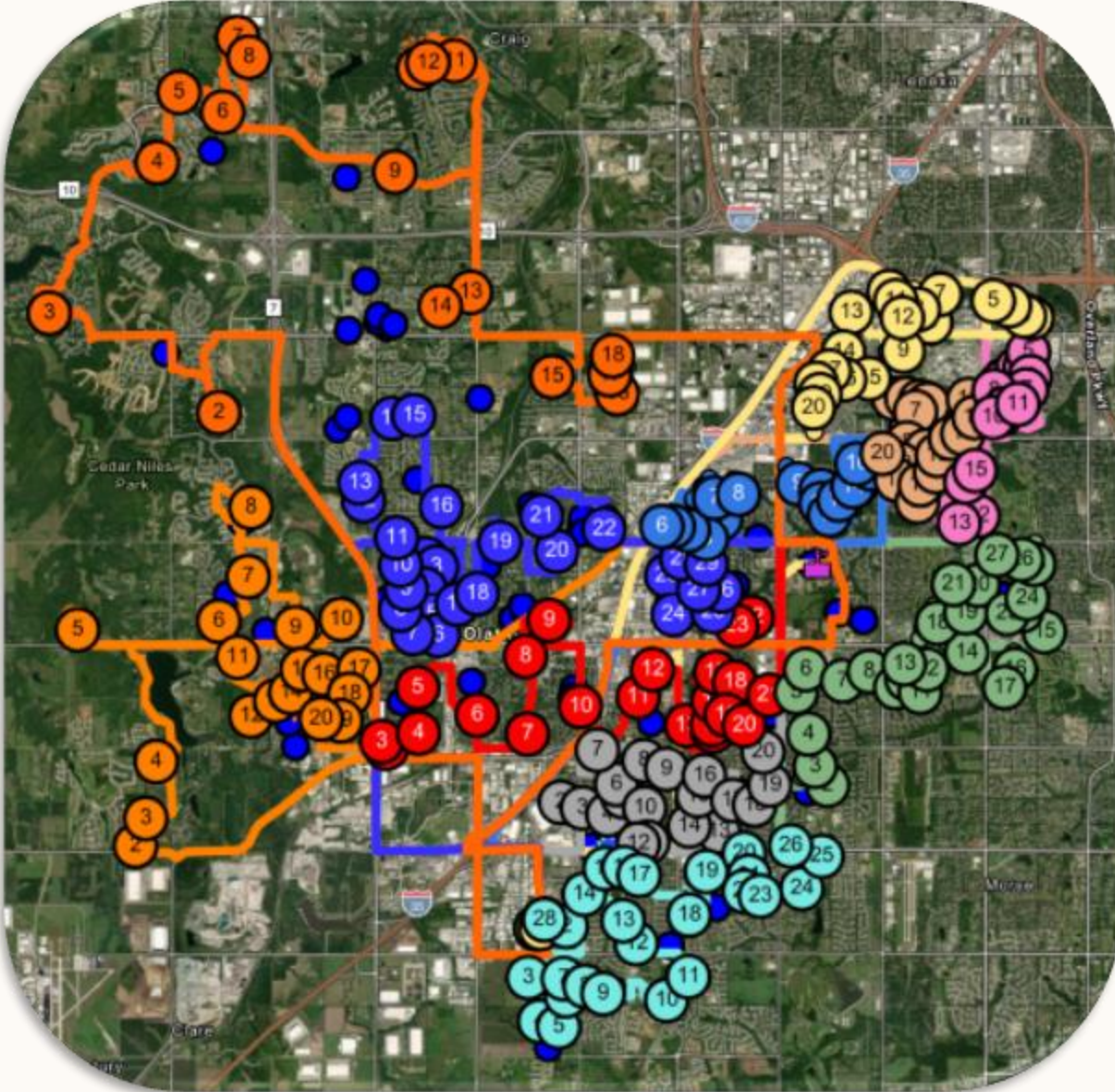
General Education Only

14 Routes

297 Stops

607 Students

Route Example: Olathe East 2022-2023



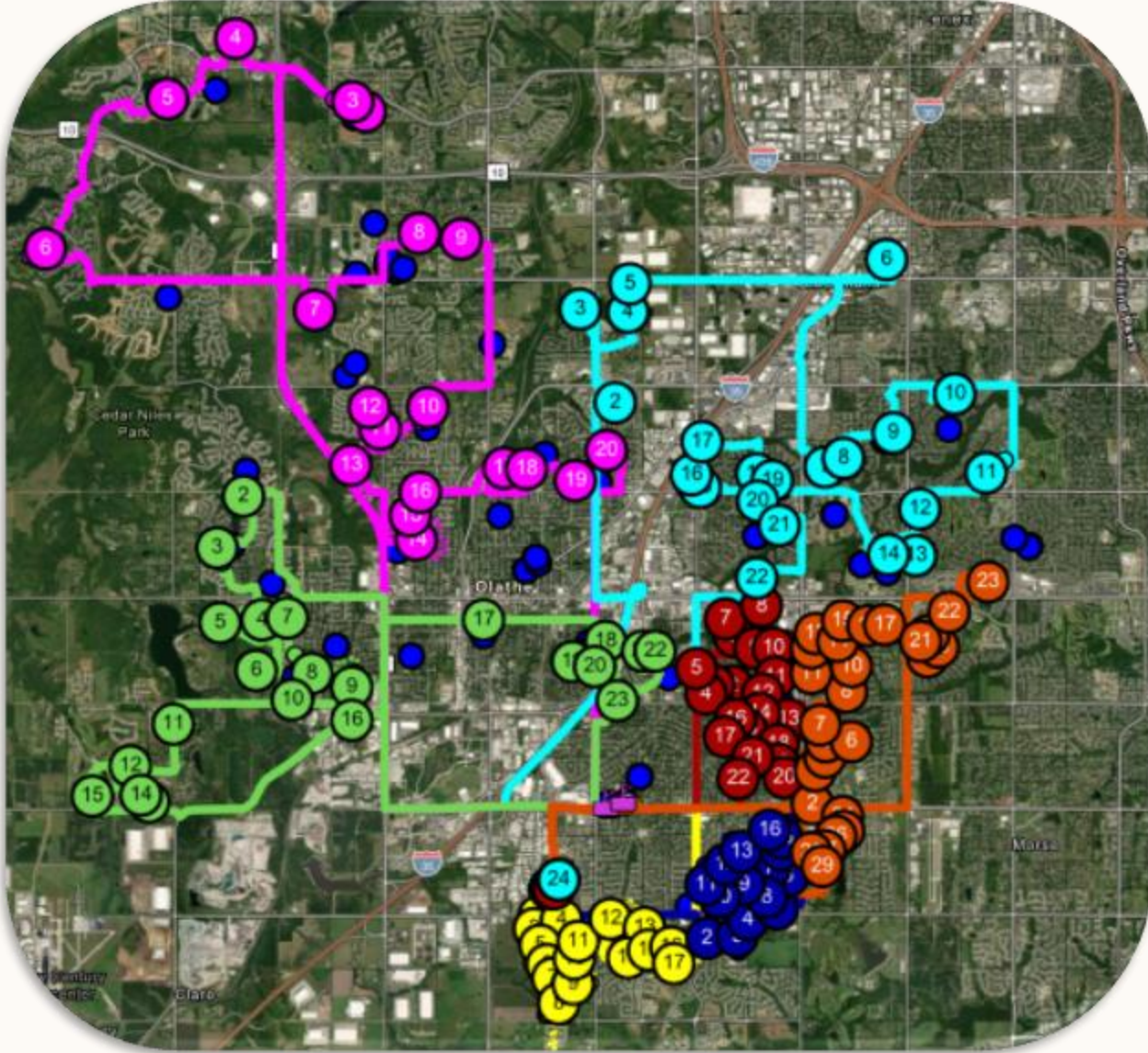
General Education Only

11 Routes

253 Stops

486 Students

Route Example: Olathe South 2022-2023



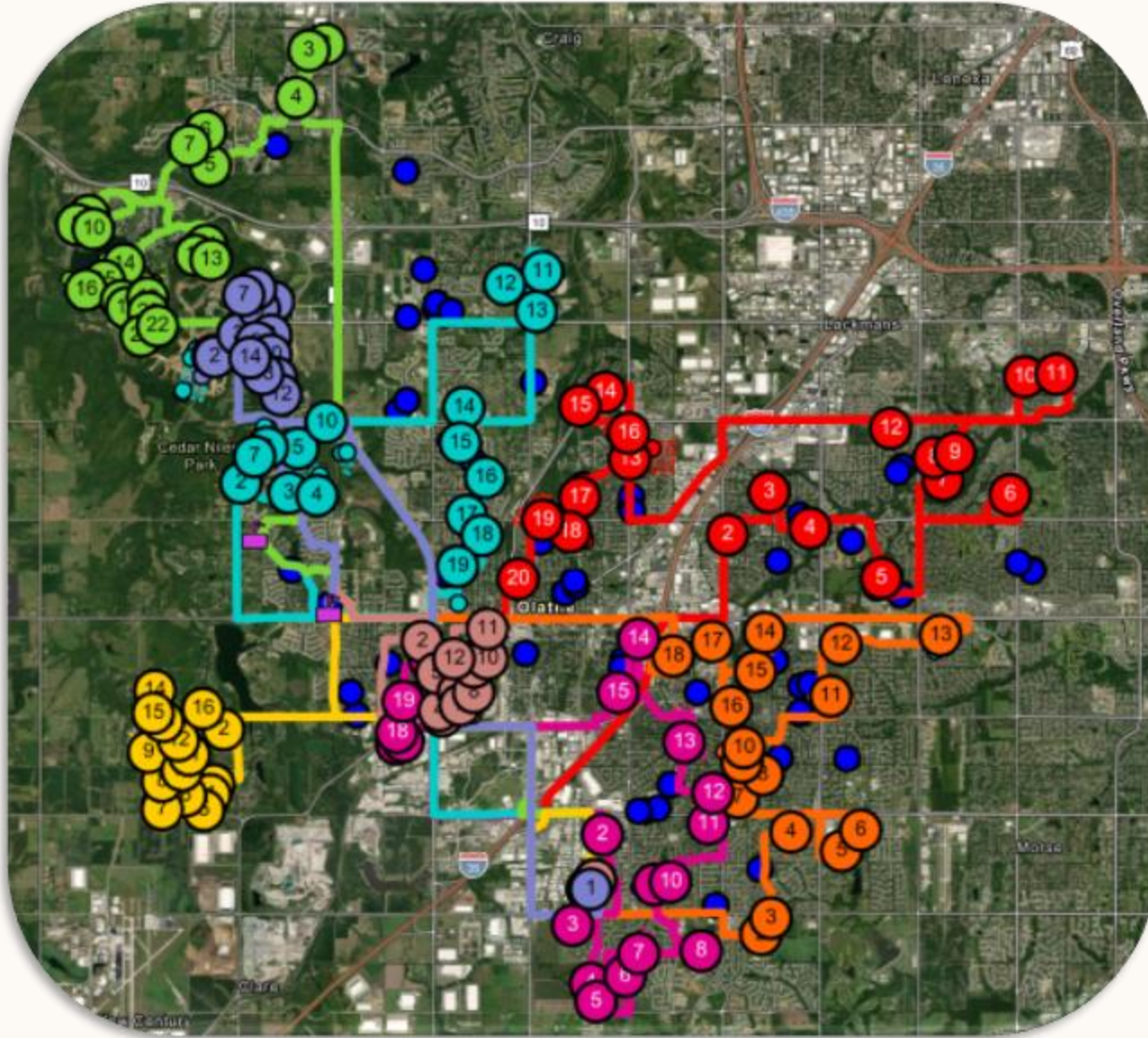
General Education Only

7 Routes

162 Stops

271 Students

Route Example: Olathe West 2022-2023



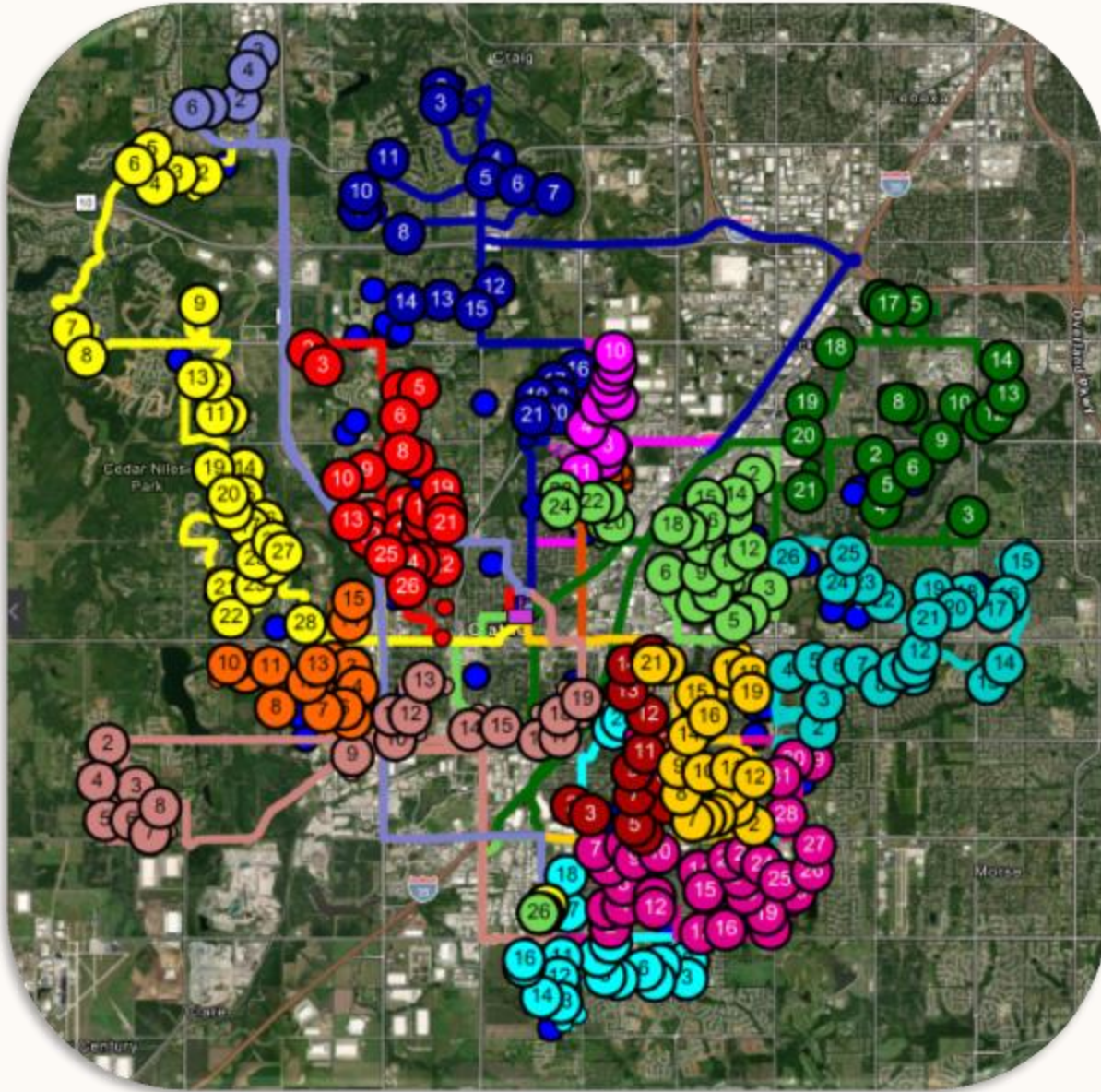
General Education Only

8 Routes

156 Stops

368 Students

Route Example: Olathe North 2022-2023



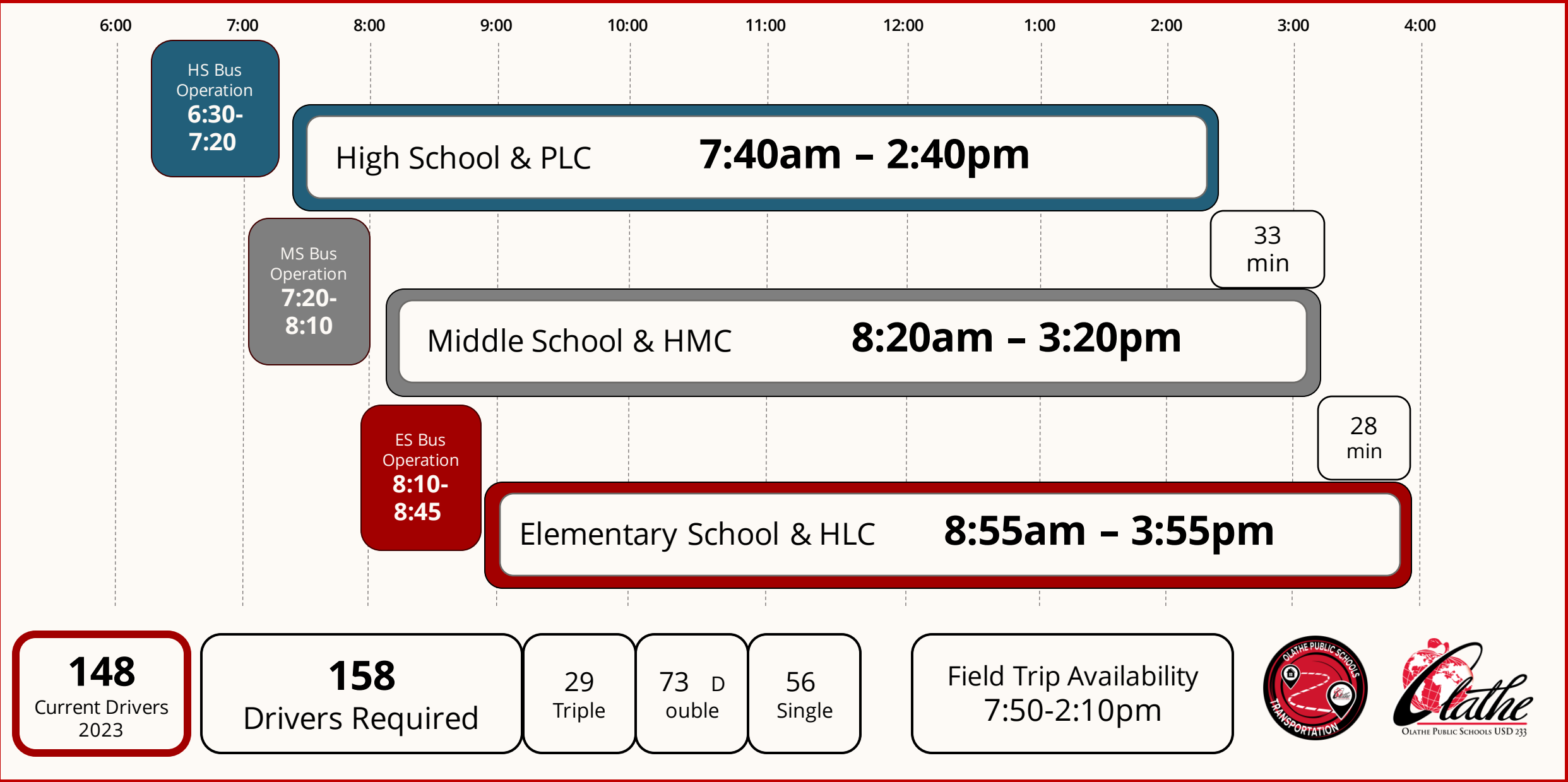
General Education Only

15 Routes

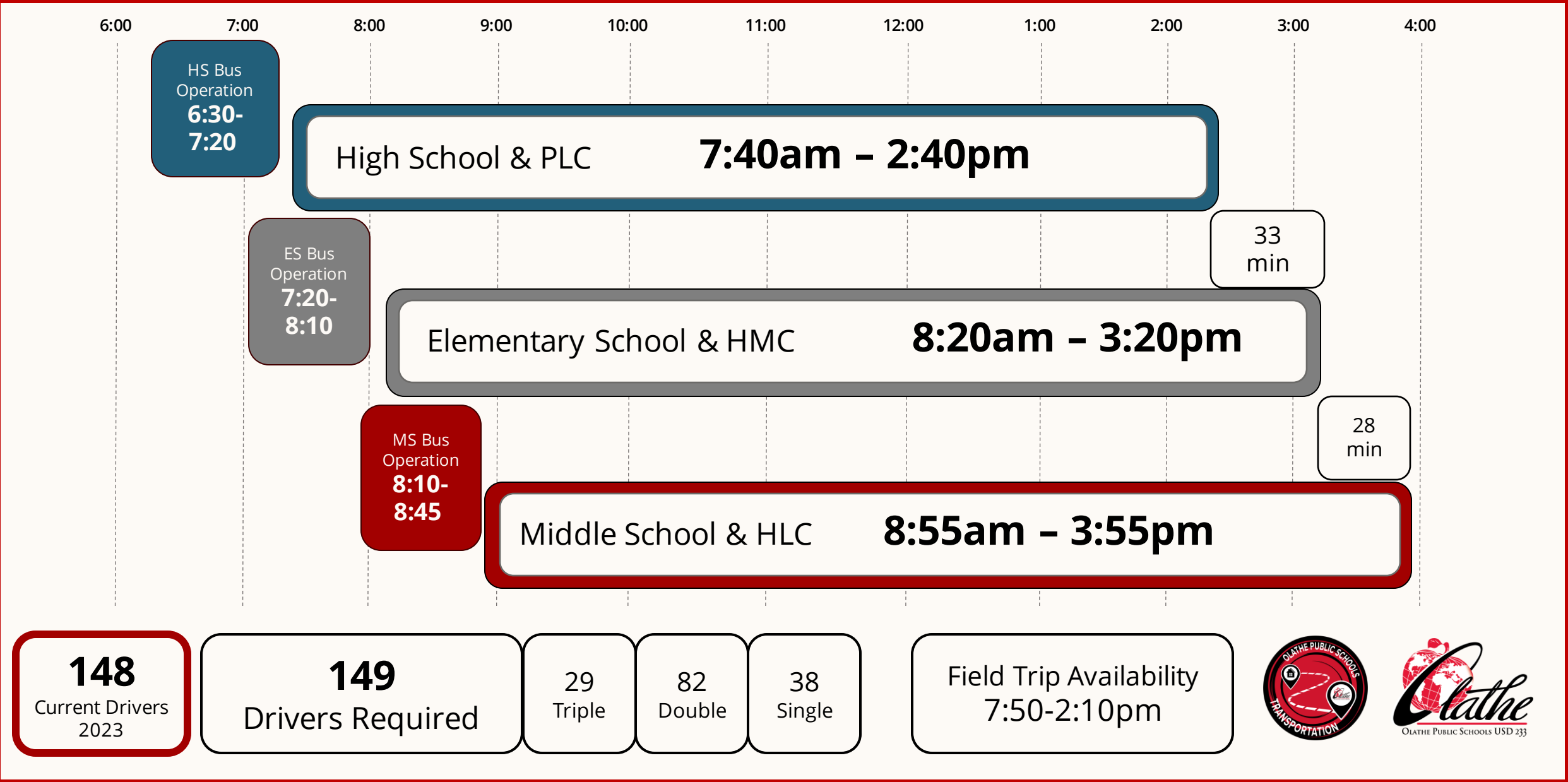
310 Stops

707 Students

Current Proposal: Option A



Current Proposal: Option B



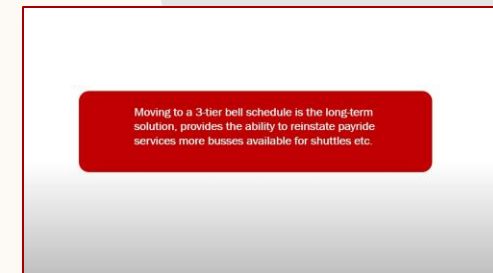
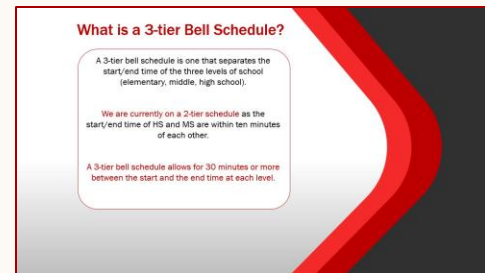
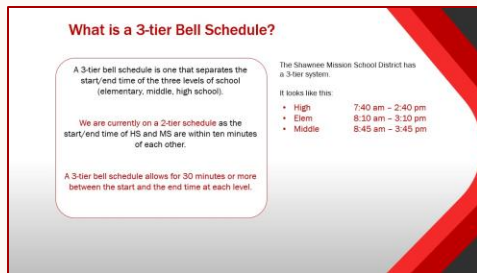
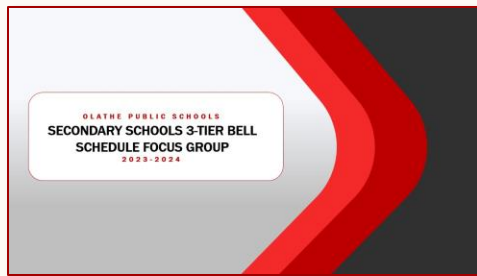
Student Input

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Student Input

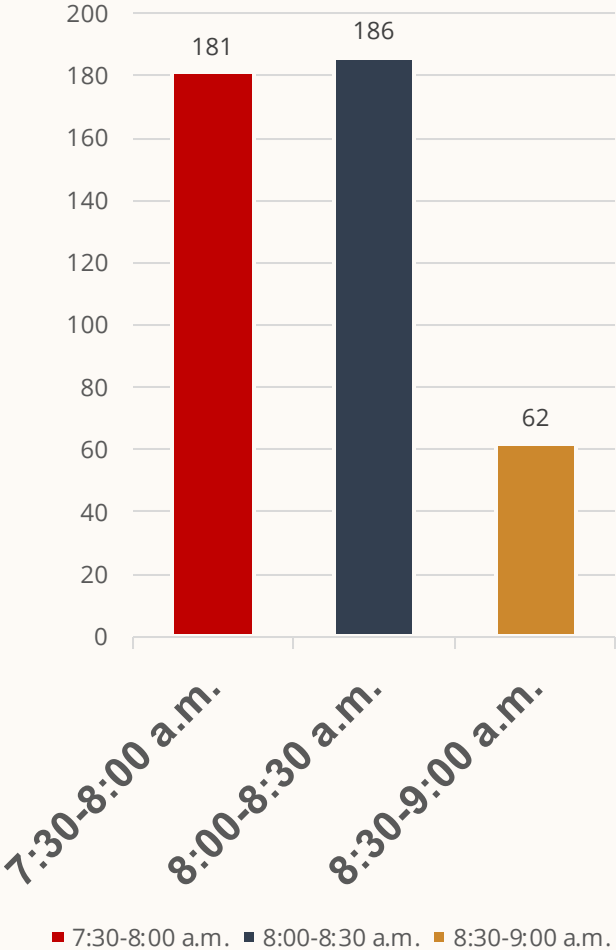
Method:

Our secondary principals ran focus groups to collect student input on the start and end time discussion. The same PowerPoint and data collection was used across all 5 hs's and all 10 ms's. After learning more about the "why" for the start/end time change, Students used a qr code to provide input



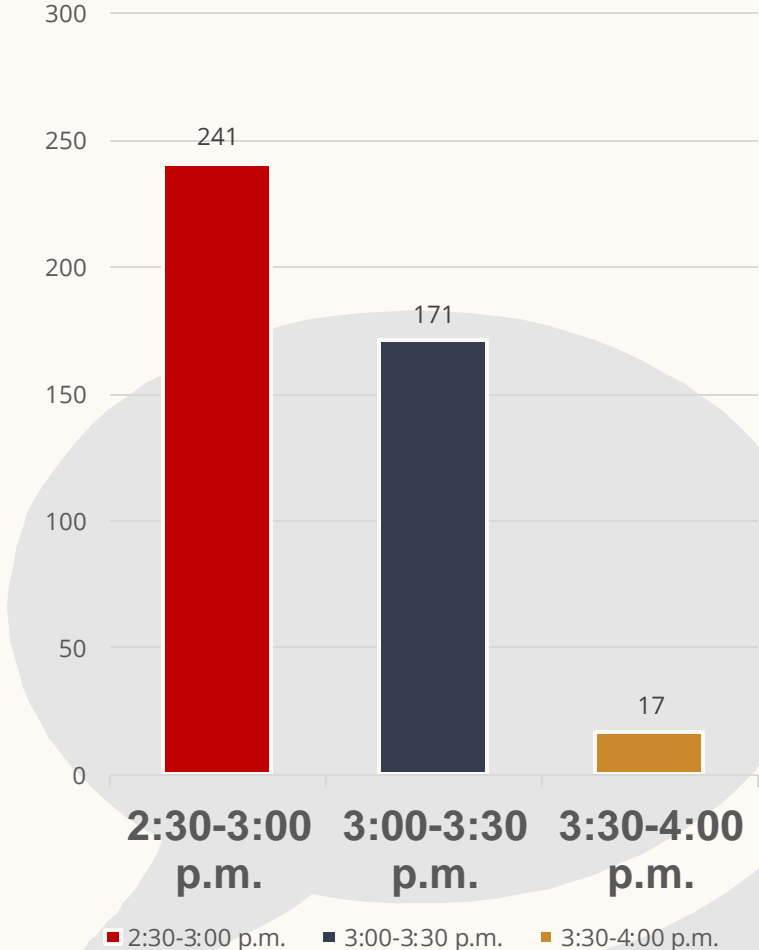
Middle School Student Input: Start and End Times

Middle School Students' Preferred Start Time

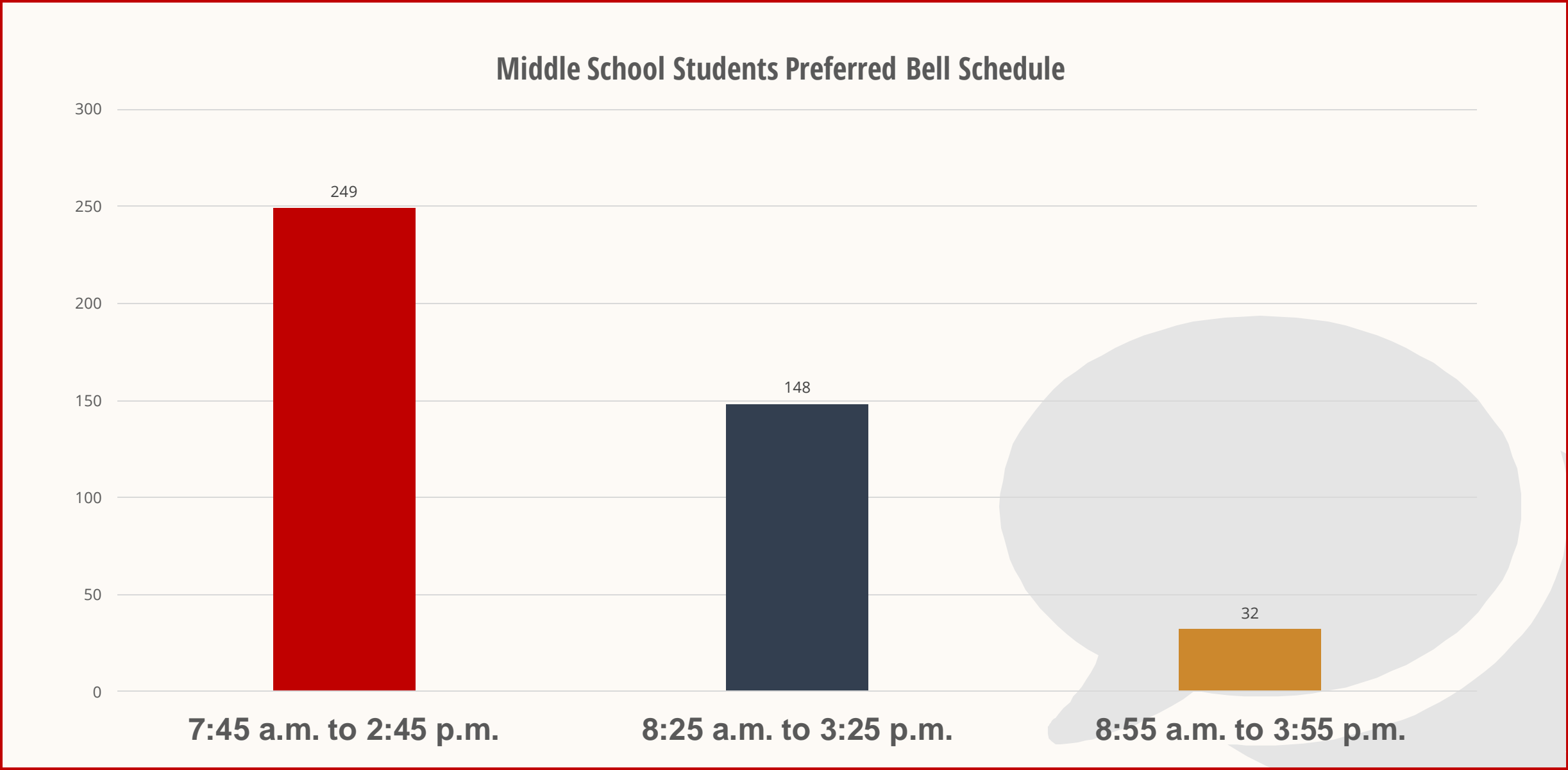


According to the feedback received, middle school students tend to prefer earlier start times and earlier dismissal times.

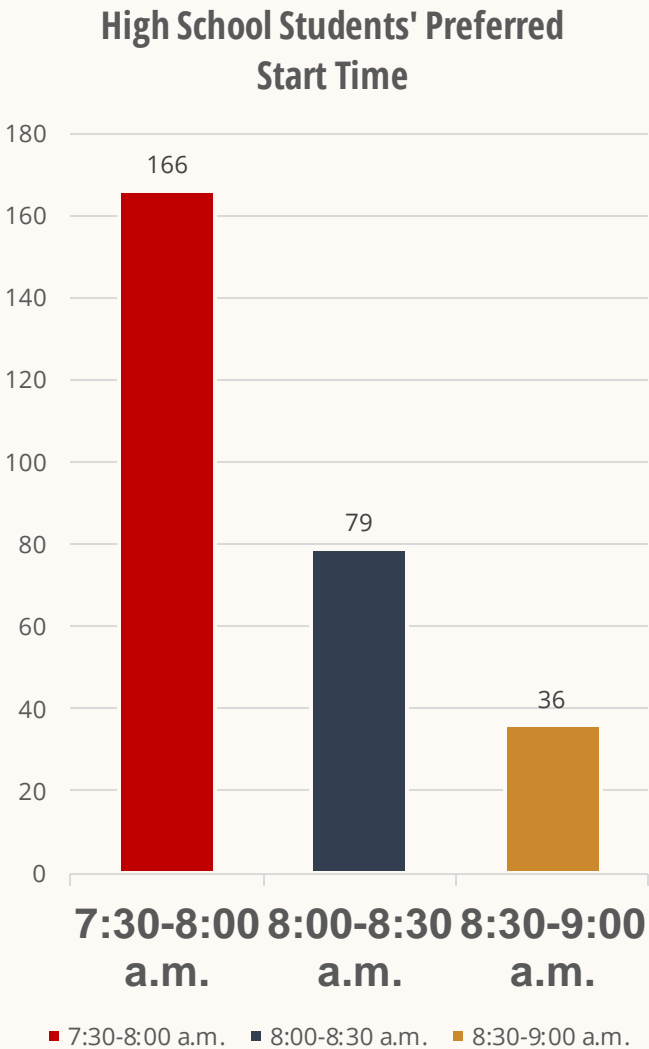
Middle School Students' Preferred Dismissal Time



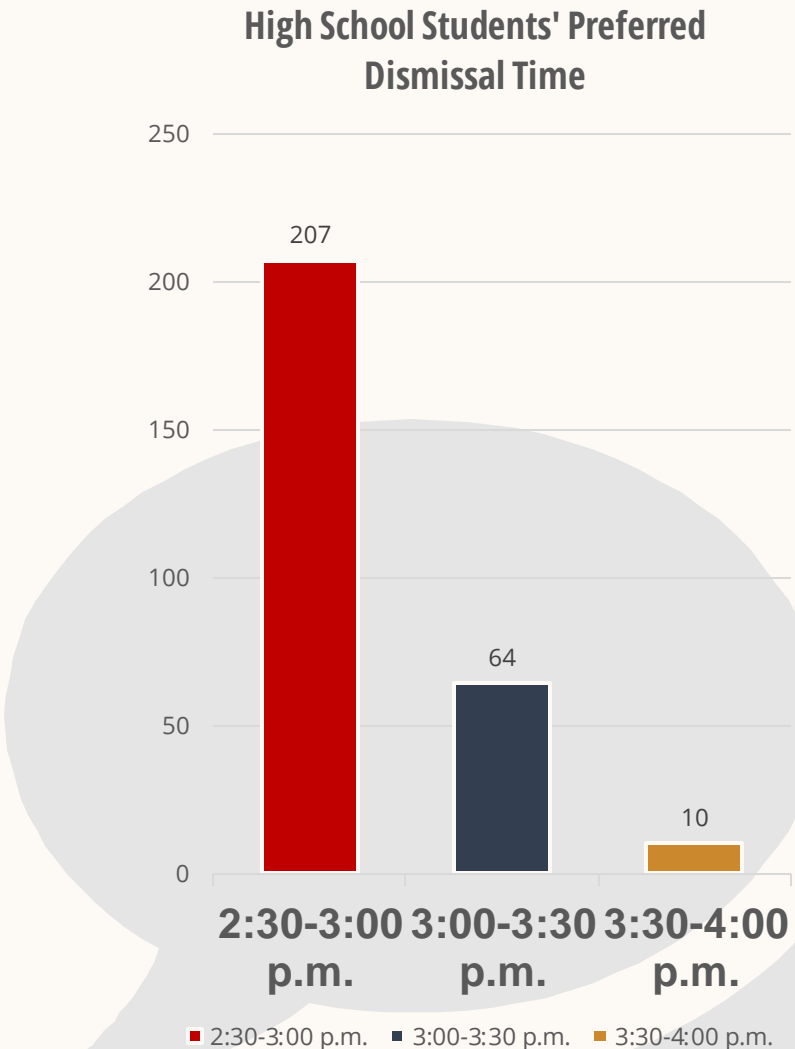
Middle School Student Input: Bell Schedule



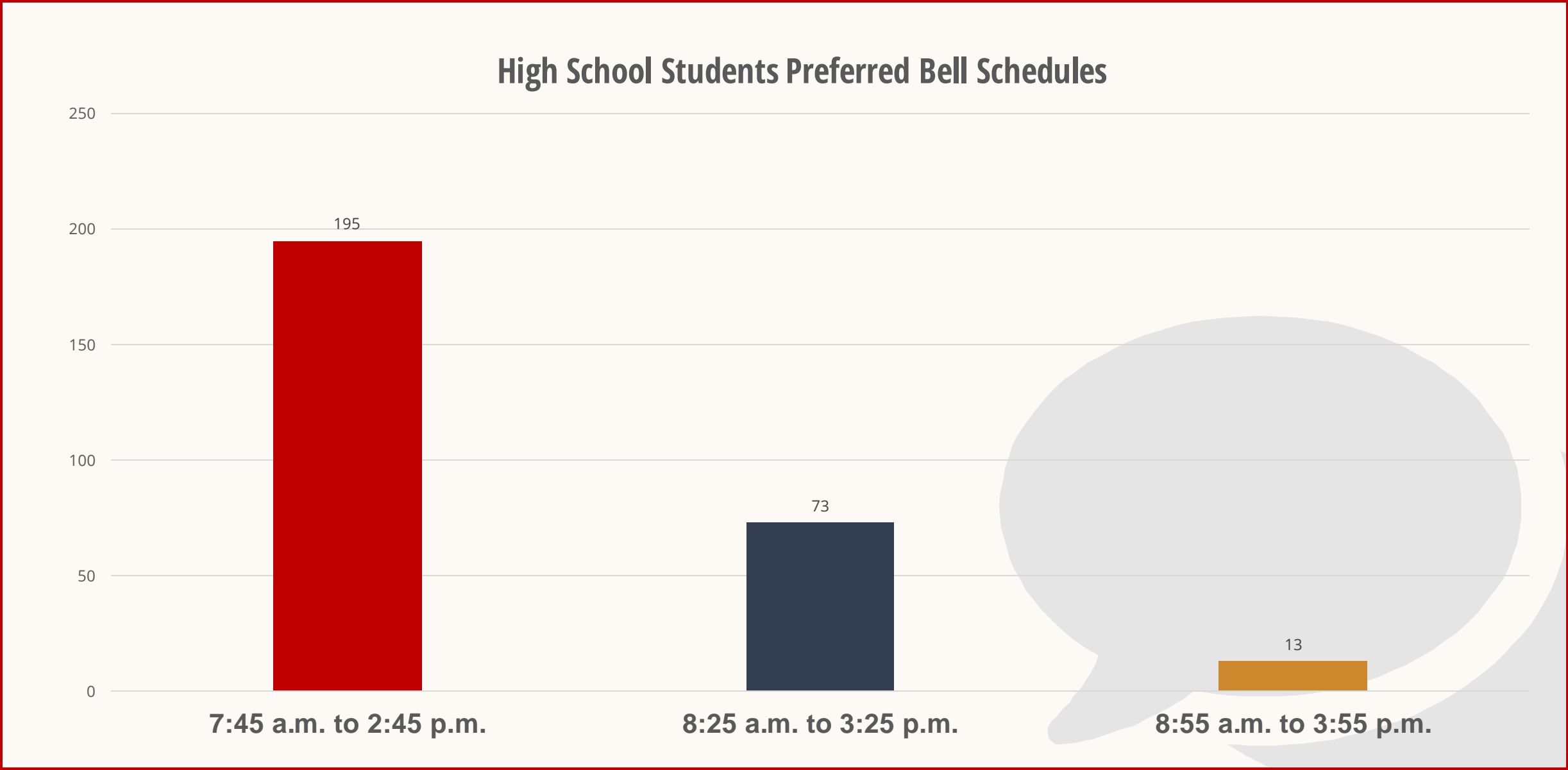
High School Student Input: Start and End Times



According to the feedback received, high school students strongly prefer earlier start times and earlier dismissal times.




High School Student Input: Bell Schedule



Parent Survey

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Parent Survey:



Olathe Public Schools Parent Survey - School Start/End Times Feedback

Olathe Public Schools is seeking input from all families regarding a shift in school start/end times at all levels beginning in the 2024-25 school year as we work together to find a solution to transportation challenges impacting equal access to educational opportunities for all students (including access to field trip transportation, access to payrider transportation at all levels, access to free transportation to 21st Century Programs, etc.).


We want to hear your feedback to help inform decisions moving forward. The district has formed committees at all three levels (early childhood/elementary, middle and high school), comprised of teachers, parents, administrators and certified and classified staff members, to further study community and staff input and form a recommendation to bring to the Board of Education by the end of the semester. Please take 5 minutes to complete this survey. All feedback is anonymous. The survey will close on Friday, Sept. 22 at 5 p.m.

For your reference, the district's current start/end times are:

- High: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Middle: 7:50 a.m.-3:10 p.m.
- Elem.: 8:20 a.m.-3:40 p.m.

Section 1

Please take a moment to watch this video message from Superintendent Dr. Yeager



Start and End Time Update - Survey

Copy link

Dr. Yeager

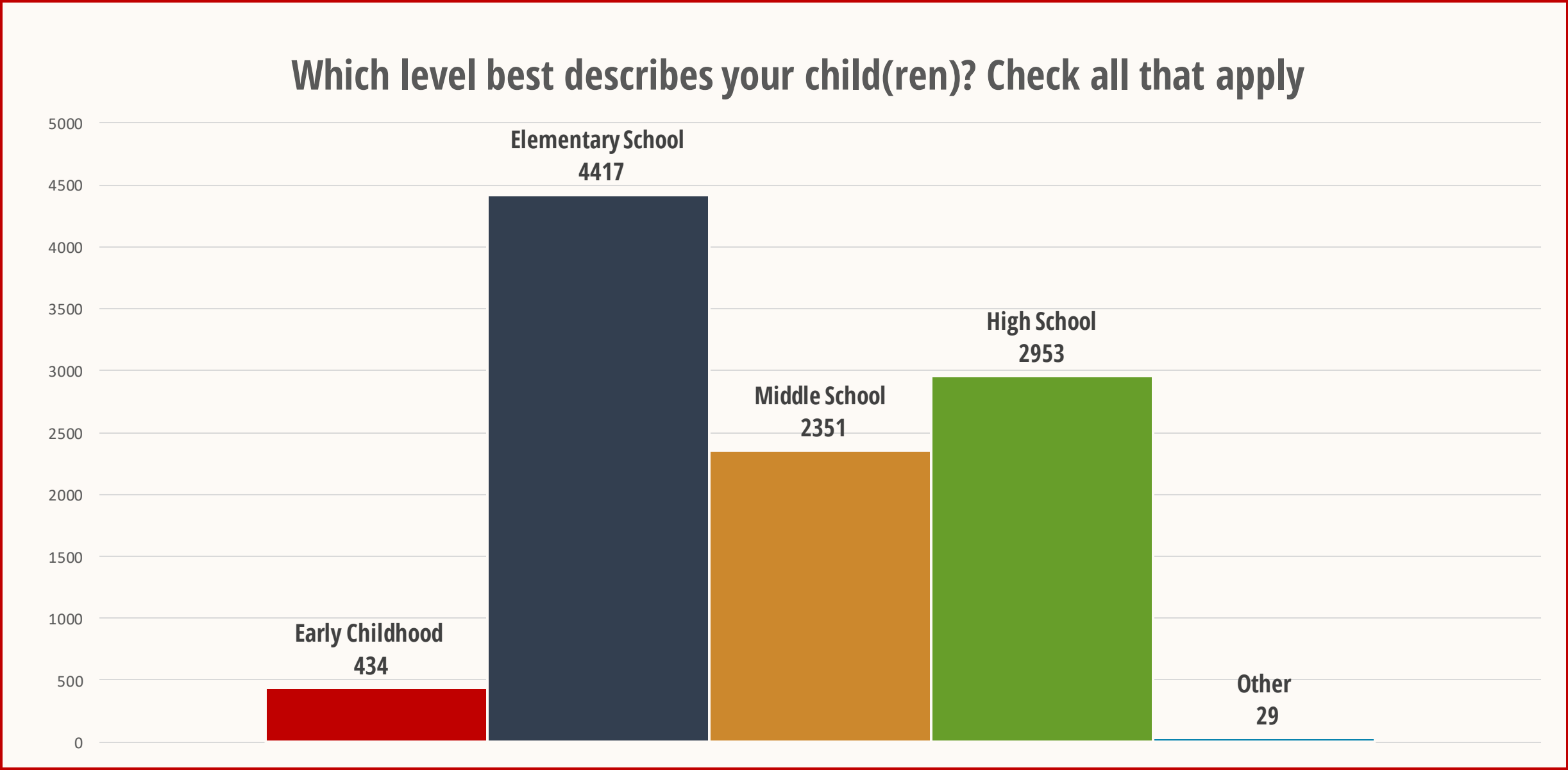
Open From 9/18-9/22

7302
Responses

3286
Written Responses

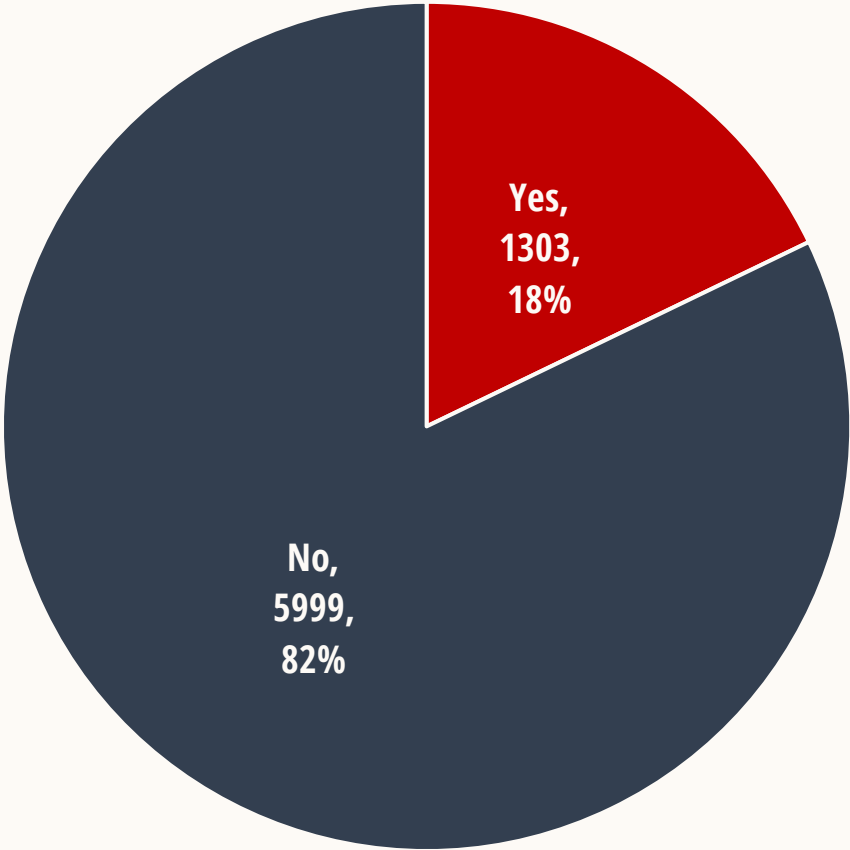
Parent Survey: Question 1

Which level best describes your child(ren)? Check all that apply

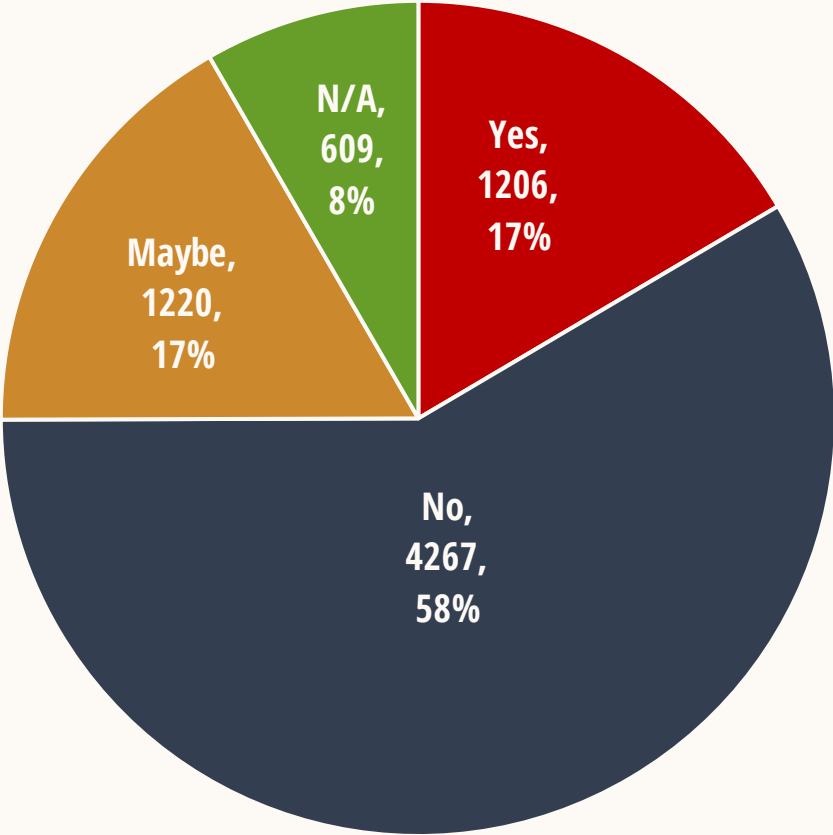


Parent Survey: Question 2 & 3

Does your child currently ride the bus to school?

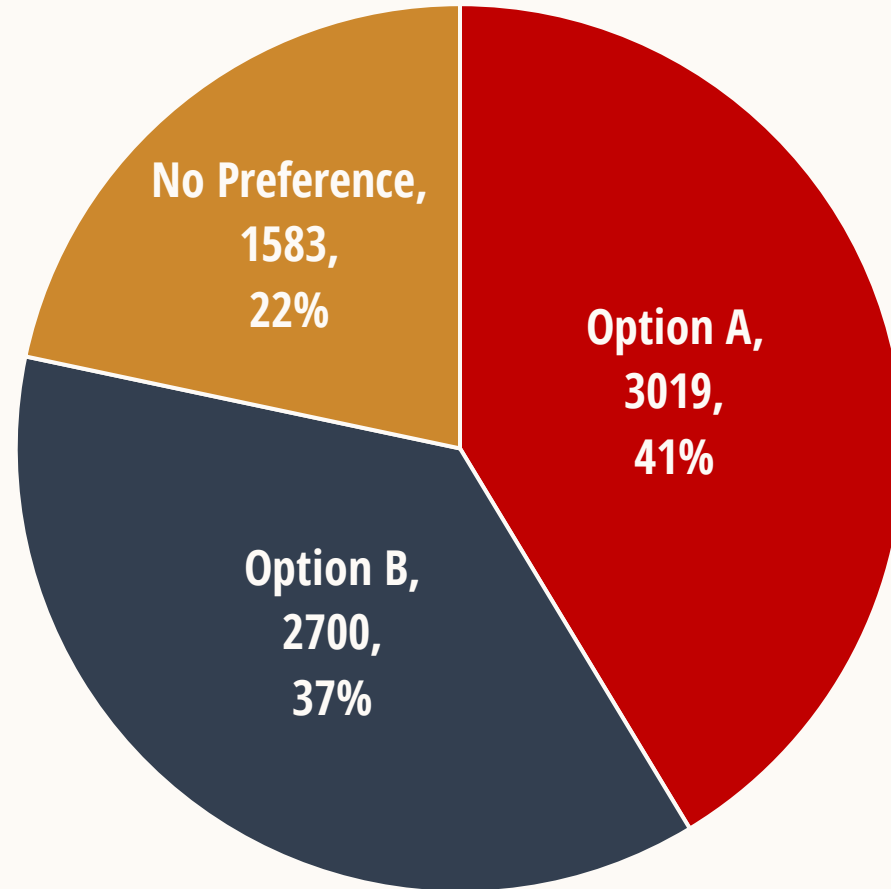


Would your child ride the bus to school as a payride passenger if the district reinstated payride transportation for eligible students who live under 2.5 miles from school?



Parent Survey: Question 4

Please select the schedule option you would be most supportive of beginning in the 2024-25 school year.



Parent Survey: Written Feedback

Key Concerns 1

1. Concerns Over Elementary School Start Times:

- **Safety Concerns:** Parents raised concerns about younger children walking in the dark or during inclement weather, especially if they live just outside the bus service zone.
- **Impact on Working Parents:** Many parents mentioned the logistical challenges late start times would pose, including difficulty in arranging childcare and adhering to standard work hours. Parents emphasized the reliance on before/after school care and expressed concern about limited spots.
- **General Preference:** A considerable number of responses indicated a preference for earlier start times for elementary students, citing the natural wake cycle of younger children and the need for parental supervision.

2. High School Start Times and Sleep Needs:

- **Need for Later Start:** Several comments cited research indicating the benefits of later start times for teenagers due to their sleep patterns. The earlier start time proposal for high school students was seen as counterproductive to their wellbeing.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Concerns were raised about high school students who engage in after-school activities, sports, or part-time jobs, emphasizing the limited time they'd have in the evening.

3. Middle School Concerns:

- **Siblings and Transportation:** There were mentions of older siblings helping in dropping off/picking up younger ones. Changes in middle school timings might disrupt this setup.
- **Supervision Needs:** Like elementary students, there were concerns about middle school students needing supervision, particularly if start times were significantly later.

Parent Survey: Written Feedback

Key Concerns 2

4. Busing and Transportation:

- ***Need for Busing Options:*** Several parents stressed the importance of reintroducing busing options, especially for those not served due to the 2.5-mile rule or due to removal of the pay-to-ride service.
- ***Bus Company Issues:*** A number of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the bus company, suggesting the district should explore alternatives or hold the company accountable.

5. Broader Organizational and Logistical Concerns:

- ***Multiple Kids in Different Schools:*** Parents with children in different school levels discussed the logistical nightmare of coordinating pick-ups and drop-offs with varying start and end times.
- ***Potential Solutions:*** Some comments suggested solutions like considering school boundaries, introducing a four-day school week, or looking at school crossing guards availability.
- ***Distrust and Frustration:*** There was palpable frustration in some comments, feeling that decisions were already made, distrust in the school board, and threats of leaving the school system.


6. Miscellaneous Feedback:

- ***Teacher's Perspective:*** Concerns were raised about teachers' ability to manage changes, especially those who are parents themselves and have to coordinate with their children's schedules.
- ***Acknowledgment:*** While there was criticism, some parents acknowledged the district's efforts and the challenges they face in trying to accommodate everyone's needs.

Staff Survey

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Staff Survey:



Olathe Public Schools Staff Survey - School Start/End Times Feedback

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- Elem.: 8:20 a.m.-3:40 p.m.

Please note: The teacher contract day is a negotiated item to be discussed by Professional Council and ratified by the bargaining unit and Board of Education.

Section 1

Please take a moment to watch this video from Superintendent Dr. Brent Yeager



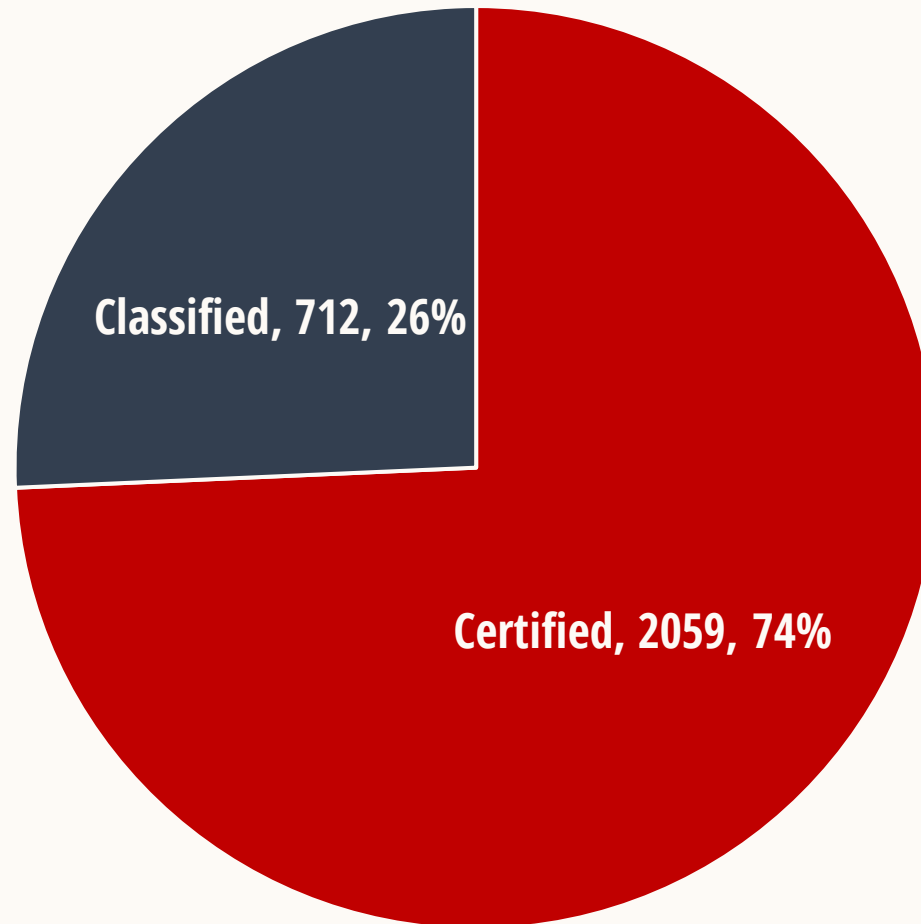
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2771
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1292
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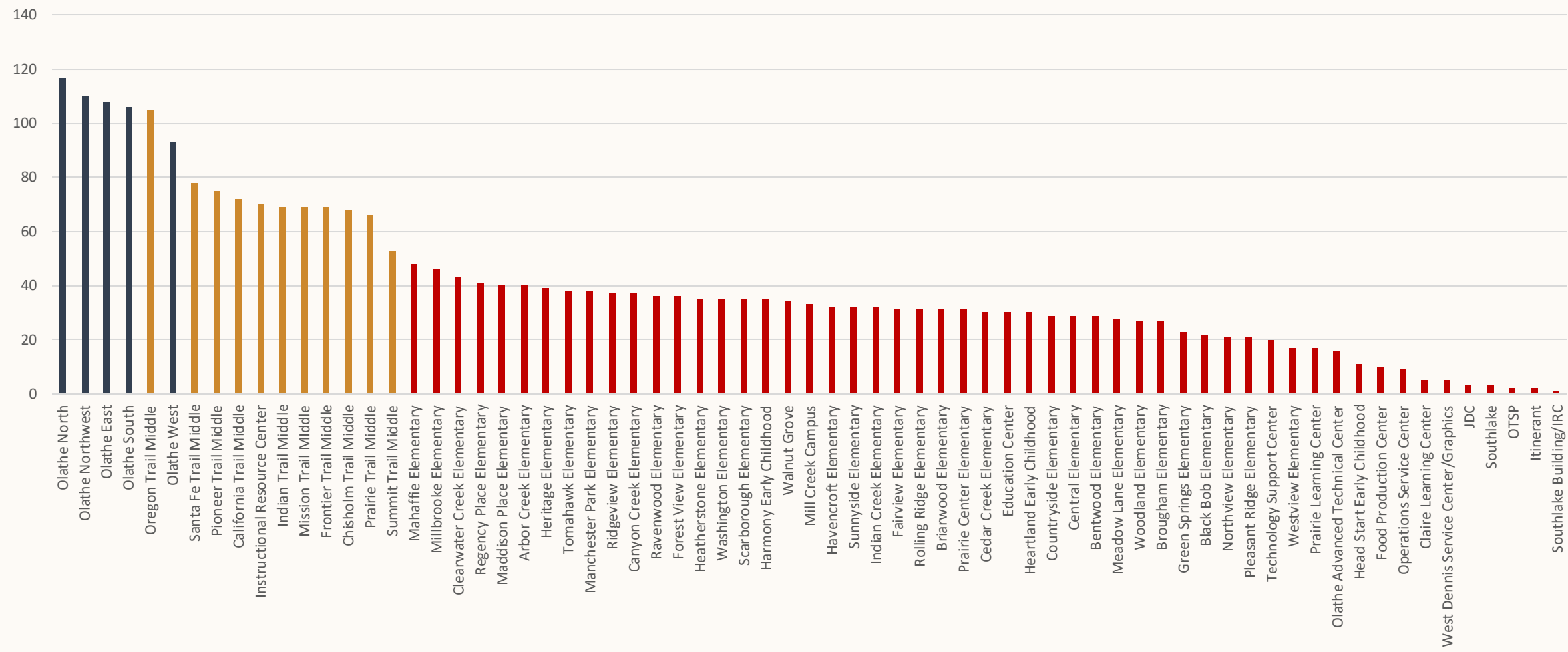
Staff Survey: Question 1

What type of position do you hold in the Olathe Public Schools?



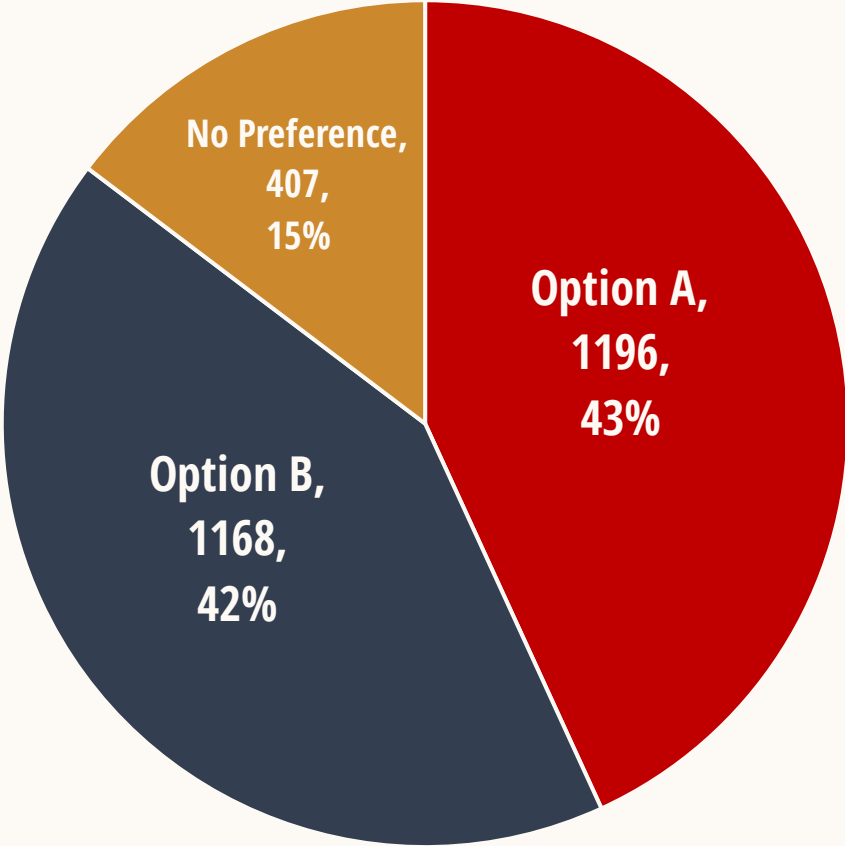
Staff Survey: Question 2

Which building do you work in?



Staff Survey: Question 3

Please select the schedule option you would be most supportive of beginning in the 2024-25 school year.



Staff Survey: Written Feedback Summary

Key Concerns

1. Altered Contract Hours:

- Staff are worried about the change in their contract hours and how it will affect their personal schedules and commitments.

2. Childcare Issues:

- The new schedule could create significant childcare challenges for staff members, particularly those with young children.

3. Impact on Extracurricular Activities:

- Concerns were raised about the potential negative effect on middle and high school sports and other extracurricular activities due to altered school timings.

4. Student Supervision and Safety:

- Staff expressed worries about younger students being left without supervision, especially if elementary schools get out before middle schools.

5. Need for More Options:

- Respondents are seeking more scheduling options, including a four-day school week or different starting times for high schools in line with adolescent sleep research.

6. Transparent Decision-Making Process:

- There is a call for a more transparent, inclusive, and thorough decision-making process, ensuring all concerns and suggestions are considered.

Breakout sessions

- **Early childhood and Elementary school** – remain in the auditorium
- **Middle school** – upstairs in the 6th grade pod
- **High school** – library
- * wrap up by 8:00 and dismiss from our breakout locations. A QR code will be given at the end of each session for questions, feedback, etc.