



# Dover Sherborn School Start Times

START TIMES TASK FORCE – PHASE II (STTF-P II)  
TRANSITIONING TO FALL 2020

Presented October 22, 2019

# Approved Start Times for Fall 2020

## Elementary Schools

Existing Start of  
School  
8:35 am

**NEW Start of School**  
7:50 am

Existing Dismissal  
Time  
3:00 pm

**NEW Dismissal  
Time**  
2:15 pm

Current Bus Pick-Up  
Times  
7:45-7:58 am

**Projected  
Bus Pick-Up Times**  
7:00 am or later

## Secondary Schools

Existing Start of  
School  
7:40 am

**NEW Start of School**  
8:35 am

Existing Dismissal  
Time  
2:15 pm

**NEW Dismissal  
Time**  
3:10 pm

Current Bus Pick-Up  
Times  
6:40-7:00 am

**Projected  
Bus Pick-Up Times**  
7:40 or later

# Important findings related to elementary start times...

- ❑ Dr. Judith Owens, Director of Sleep Medicine at Children's Hospital, suggests the "sweet spot" for elementary start times is between 7:30 - 9am.
- ❑ Several local independent schools have had early start times for years.
  - ❑ Fesseden: 7:50 am start PreK - 9th grade - 21 years, no issues.
  - ❑ Tenacre Country Day: 7;50 arrival, 8 am instructional start, PreK - 6th grade
  - ❑ Milton Academy: 8 am start, PreK-12th grade

# STTF-PII

## Working Groups

- **Transportation** (Dawn Fattore)
- **Elementary Before/After School Programming** (Laura Dayal and Allison Gullingsrud)
- **Secondary School Schedules**  
(Scott Kellett and Ann Dever Keegan)
- **Secondary Before/After School Programming** (John Smith)
- **Staff Implications** (Steve Wroblewski & Kate McCarthy)
- **Communications** (Amanda Brown and Sarah Wilson)

# Transportation

## Steps Taken and Decisions Made to Date

- ❑ Implemented new arrival “target times” for FY20 to tighten overall travel schedule and incorporate shortened time before bell into student and staff morning routines
- ❑ Streamlined protocol for stops to reduce overall route travel time
- ❑ Began educating bus drivers on importance of initiative and need to adhere to schedules
- ❑ Initiated discussions with Boston bus company for two morning routes beginning in FY21

## Next Steps

- ❑ Begin working on draft transportation schedules for next year including test runs of the flipped travel routes to better understand travel/traffic patterns
- ❑ Review schedules with both Town Police and Highway Departments for input on any logistical issues and potential assistance.

# Elementary Before, After School Programming

## Steps Taken and Decisions Made to Date

- ❑ Held meetings with Community Education and Park and Recreation Directors regarding after school programming
- ❑ Made decision to expand DEDA/SHEDA programming to align with new times
- ❑ Made decision that School Advisory Councils will hear parent input and seek to address concerns

## Next Steps

- ❑ Continue work with Directors, Community Education on logistical changes
- ❑ Continue work with STTF Communications group to inform the community of the change in school start times and anticipated impacts

# Secondary School Schedules

## Steps Taken and Decisions Made to Date

- ❑ Formulated multiple scheduling options for both schools
- ❑ Conducted faculty information sessions/surveys
- ❑ Determined final options for both schools 2-HS /1 MS

## Next Steps

- ❑ Faculty feedback/input on final 2 HS schedules
- ❑ Student focus groups/feedback/input on final 2 HS schedules
- ❑ Make recommendation/decision on final HS schedule
- ❑ Establish working groups to address the new schedule (ie. X block working group)

# Secondary Before and After School Programming

## Steps Taken and Decisions Made to Date

- ❑ No regularly scheduled before school extra help sessions or club meetings
- ❑ Clubs will still begin at the end of school day allowing students to participate in clubs as well as drama and athletics
- ❑ New start of interscholastic athletics and drama programming will be 3:45
- ❑ Expectation set for ending practices no later than 5:45 on non contest days

## Next Steps

- ❑ Depending on the existence of a “flex” block at the end of the school day thirty additional minutes of extra help would be sufficient otherwise we may need to push the start of drama and athletic programming to 4:00 pm



# Staff Implications

## Steps Taken and Decisions Made to Date

- ❑ Focus Group Meetings being held at every building and ideas/recommendations being collected

## Next Steps

- ❑ Process all the feedback from focus group meetings\*

\*Faculty would like specifics around before and after school requirements and have questions around when faculty meetings and after school help will take place

# Communications

## Steps Taken and Decisions Made to Date

- Maintained and continuously updated web page and twitter feed
- Updated STTF on local and national start time developments
- Drafted newsletter and eblast content and press releases
- Maintained STTF email account

## Next Steps

- Support STTF-PII as needed
- Plan community education event(s)
- Facilitate outcomes measurements

# Timeline of Start Time Work...

**September  
2018-March  
2019**

Re-formation  
of STTF, review  
of research,  
study of other  
systems,  
community  
presentations,  
solicitation of  
stakeholder  
feedback



**April 2019**

JSC vote – April  
30th



**June  
2019-October  
2019**

Convene  
STTF-Phase II,  
establish working  
groups, begin  
addressing key  
challenges  
related to  
transition, provide  
first update to  
JSC (10-22-19)



**January 2020  
– June 2020**

Continue to  
provide  
updates to  
JSC (1-14-20,  
4-7-20,  
6-11-20)



**Fall 2020  
Rollout!**



Questions?