

School Start Times 2026-2027

CCSD will implement new start times to prioritize learning

Beginning Monday, August 10, 2026, the Clark County School District (CCSD) will utilize the following general school start times:

- **Middle School:** 7:30 a.m. - 1:41 p.m.
- **High School:** 8:30 a.m. - 2:41 p.m.
- **Elementary School:** 9:15 a.m. - 3:26 p.m.

Note that some schools with specialized programming or shared transportation with another school may have different start times. Final bell schedules for all schools will be released in April 2026.

Why was the decision made to adjust school start times?

Research shows teenagers are biologically wired for later sleep cycles. By shifting high school start times, CCSD aims to:

- **Boost Performance:** Improve alertness, attendance, and graduation rates.
- **Support Wellness:** Reduce rates of depression and anxiety.
- **Enhance Safety:** Decrease behavioral incidents and teen auto accidents.

Why can't every student start school at 8:00 a.m. or 8:30 a.m.?

CCSD operates the largest school district-owned transportation system in the United States. Therefore, we have staggered school start times. Every day, each bus and driver pick up students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels in the morning and afternoon. Adjusting one level's start time directly affects the sequencing and feasibility of other routes. In evaluating scenarios, we analyzed route efficiency, driver availability, traffic flow, and arrival conditions across our 374 schools.

Will this earlier start time negatively affect middle school students entering puberty?

Research indicates that the adolescent circadian shift begins during early puberty and that many middle school students are transitioning into adolescence during their 8th-grade year.

In reviewing research and stakeholder feedback, we recognized that adolescence is not a sharp line at age 14. Middle school students, particularly in the upper grades, are entering that developmental phase. At the same time, we also examined developmental differences within elementary populations, where students are more dependent on adults for transportation, supervision, and morning routines.

We recognize that a 7:30 a.m. middle school start time does not fully align with the 8:00 a.m. recommendation cited in some research studies. However, within the parameters of a district our size, this configuration allowed us to move 80,000 high school students to later school start times, where the circadian shift is most pronounced, while avoiding unintended safety impacts on our youngest students.

How did CCSD make this decision?

CCSD conducted two surveys and received approximately 90,000 responses. A majority of respondents were supportive of all options presented to update school start times.

Ultimately, CCSD chose an option that reflects a balance of three major factors:

- Adolescent sleep science, particularly the stronger circadian delay documented in older adolescents (our 80,000 high school students)
- Transportation tier constraints, which require staggered schedules to operate at scale
- Student safety and supervision considerations, especially for elementary-aged children

Decisions often require balancing research, community input, and operational realities. We will continue monitoring academic, attendance, and wellness indicators as implementation proceeds.

How will this affect transportation and bus schedules?

CCSD will maintain the same level of transportation service for students, but pick-up and drop-off times will change. Eligible bus riders will receive a Parentlink message in July 2026 with the steps to access bus routing information.

How will the changes in start time impact transportation for magnet schools?

Career and Technical Academies and Magnet Program start times will be adjusted to align with

their associated grade level, but will maintain their unique dismissal bell times, which allows for an extended instructional day, if applicable. Magnet school start times for 2026-2027 are now available on magnet school websites.

Will before-school and after-school programs, such as extracurricular activities, still be available?

Yes. CCSD will continue to partner with outside agencies to provide options for families before and after school.

How will this affect athletics, clubs, or after-school activities?

Schedules for athletics, clubs, and after-school activities are a site-based decision. Some athletic event start times may remain unchanged based on available daylight hours at varying times of year.

Will some student-athletes still miss class time because games have to start while there is daylight?

In some instances, yes.

Will there be any exceptions to the new start times for schools with unique characteristics, such as rural schools, magnets, and schools in close proximity to one another, etc.?

Unique characteristics of schools is a consideration that will be taken into account in determining new start times.

How will the start time change impact Open Enrollment?

Families who wish to explore other school options that may be more convenient or better aligned with their family's needs can do so through Open Enrollment. The late application deadline is Friday, August 21, 2026.

Are there costs associated with the change in start times and will this have any impact on school budgets?

That is a one-time cost from bond funds that cannot be used for salaries and other expenses.

Who can I contact if I still have questions or concerns?

Please reach out to your student's school administration.