

Proposed Three-Tier Bus Schedule

Board of Education vote: **Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026**

No change to bus or school times this year. If approved, the new schedule would begin in **Fall 2027**, at the start of the 2027-28 school year.

What would change?

Today, we run a **two-tier** bus system. The high school and middle schools start 8 minutes apart, so their buses run at the same time, and the elementary schools follow. This proposal moves to a **three-tier** system, so each bus can make three trips: first the high school, next the middle schools and Middlebrook, then the other five elementary schools.

School	Today	Proposed	Change	Est. bus arrival / departure
Trumbull High School	7:27 – 2:25	7:27 – 2:12	Ends 13 min earlier	7:10 / 2:19
Hillcrest and Madison	7:35 – 2:30	8:08 – 2:53	Starts 33 min later	7:52 / 3:00
Middlebrook	8:35 – 3:20	8:08 – 2:53	Starts 27 min earlier	7:52 / 3:00
Booth Hill, Daniels Farm, Frenchtown, Jane Ryan, Tashua	8:35 – 3:20	8:53 – 3:38	Starts 18 min later	8:40 / 3:45

Every school would have the same 6 hour, 45 minute day, well above Connecticut's 900-hour yearly minimum.

A day for elementary families (Booth Hill, Daniels Farm, Frenchtown, Jane Ryan, Tashua)

8:40

Buses arrive
estimated

8:53

School starts
today 8:35

3:38

Dismissal
today 3:20

3:45

Buses leave
estimated

4:19

Latest drop-off
consultant estimate

The elementary day starts and ends 10 minutes earlier than in last year's proposal (8:53 instead of 9:03).

Why make this change?

Later mornings

The earliest high school bus pickup moves from 6:03 AM to 6:35 AM. Middle school would start about 30 minutes later than today.

Less crowded buses

Separate start times free up more buses for each trip, so fewer students ride each bus. Today, 11 afternoon buses carry more than 50 students.

Shorter rides

Today, THS and Hillcrest buses average about 50 minutes. Rides would drop by about 9 to 11 minutes (consultant estimate).

Less traffic

THS and Hillcrest would start and end 41 minutes apart, instead of 5 to 8 minutes apart today.

Fiscally responsible

Reduces anticipated transportation spending for 2027-28 by **approximately \$600,000** by running fewer buses each day.

Good to know

- Monroe, Shelton, Fairfield, Easton, Newtown and Westport start most elementary schools between 8:55 AM and 9:05 AM.
- Bus times are estimates. Families will receive updated pickup and drop-off times before any change.

Why does Middlebrook move?

- One school must change times.** To reduce expenses, one elementary school shares the middle school start and end times, as in many nearby districts. Middlebrook students will still ride their own buses, not buses with middle school students.
- Central location.** Middlebrook is near the center of town, so buses can reach it quickly from any direction. Buses serving a school on the edge of town, such as Booth Hill, could not get across town in time for their next trip.
- Less morning traffic.** Middlebrook would start 22 minutes before TECEC, instead of 5 minutes apart today.

Questions or feedback?

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