New Transportation Plan Provides Later Start Time
For District High School Students

Aligns Grade Bands to Support Cross District Professional Learning

PITTSBURGH PA June 29, 2023 – A new four-tiered transportation plan developed after listening to the voices of students and families related to high school start times will move forward for the 2023-24 school year. Approved at the Board’s June 28th Legislative Meeting, the plan will add a fourth transportation tier, changing the start time for high school students on Tier 1 from 7:15 A.M. to 7:40 A.M. The new bell schedules will also support the District’s efforts to provide synchronous professional learning for school-based staff across grade bands, increasing opportunities for teachers to engage with their like-subject colleagues across schools.

"We are grateful for the flexibility exhibited by our staff, students, and families as we implement strategies to curtail the impact of the national school bus driver shortage," said Dr. Wayne Walters. "Always committed to listening, our new transportation approach will push our high school start times back 25 minutes and increase synchronous cross-district professional learning opportunities for teachers and school-based staff during student half days, addressing a challenge large school districts face when trying to increase cross-district engagement and learning among staff. We hope that this early notification provides families the opportunity to plan to make the necessary adjustments."

To support the new transportation plan, the District will implement a new four-tiered schedule that will move the start times for Tier 2 schools up five minutes, adds nine schools to an updated Tier 3 that adjusts their start times between 15 - 30 minutes, and shifts former Tier 3 schools to a new Tier 4 adding two schools to the already 12 with a 9:10 AM start time. Pittsburgh Pioneer and Pittsburgh Clayton will also see changes in their start times. Although some schools saw a shift in their tier, the District worked hard to minimize the movement of schools between tiers where possible, and as with last school year, no school’s end time exceeds 3:55 PM. To see a complete listing of school start times by tier visit www.pghschools.org/getting-kids-to-school.

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