

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
Potential School Start Time Changes - Press Release – 11/11/19

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (FNSBSD) has begun a process to explore school start times in the district. Many school districts throughout the U.S. are exploring changes in school start times. University and research hospitals have determined that students experience performance and health benefits when middle and high school students start school later. The American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics have recommended that start times for secondary schools shift to 8:30am or later. Accordingly, the FNSBSD is conducting an exploration of potential changes to determine if district students could benefit from a change.

The district is working with a consultant and is organizing community meetings and conducting an online survey to collect stakeholder response to potential changes. On November 5, the Board of Education authorized the administration to collect community input via open house meetings thorough the winter and by conducting an online survey during November. The Board will consider this information in the coming months and make a decision on February 4 to retain the existing start times or implement changes for the fall of 2020.

School and community-based events will be scheduled during the coming months in order to collect feedback on the issue using the “Open House” format in which meetings are scheduled with a one- to two-hour duration. Parents and others may attend at their convenience. It takes approximately 20 minutes to view the information and complete a survey. Participants may request an individual presentation of the material and ask specific questions of district facilitators. The district’s public relations department will continue to provide updates as this issue moves forward.