

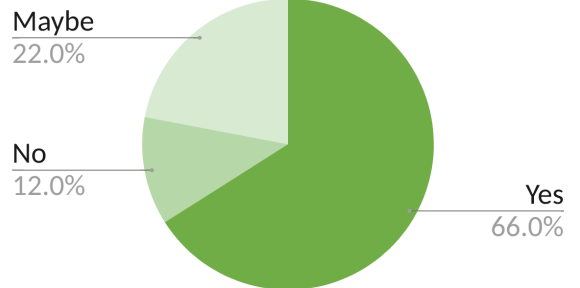
Results of the John Rogers Bell Time Survey

May 2022

SPS proposed a change in school bell times for the 2022-23 school year. The new bell time for John Rogers was going to be 7:30 am (after the JR survey had gone out, this proposed start time was amended to 7:40 am). John Rogers families had the opportunity to respond to a school survey about the proposed bell schedule and responses were shared with district staff in the transportation department. After feedback from district families, SPS delayed implementing the new three-tier bell schedule. We'd like to share with you the information gathered in the JR survey.

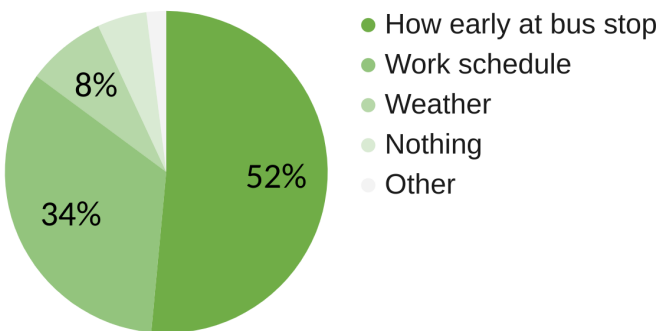
105 families responded to the survey. Most students represented were in K-3rd grade (81%). Two-thirds of families (66%) said they anticipate challenges if the bell time shifted to 7:30 am; only 12% said they anticipate no challenges. One respondent said, "I am concerned about kids walking [to school] in the dark and waiting for buses in the dark. It is not safe for young children." Parents also expressed concerns about their child's sleep schedule, tardiness, families leaving the school because of the early start time, shifts to parental work schedules, and finding adequate after-school care.

Do you anticipate challenges with a 7:30 am start time?



It appears the proposed early start time will be made even more challenging for families by the temporary move to the John Marshall building for the 2023-2025 school years. Thirteen percent of families who responded currently use the school or Access bus for morning transportation to school. For the Marshall years, 71% of families plan to use the school or Access bus. (Fifteen percent don't know how their kids will get to school yet.) One parent said, "The 2022 school year is not really a concern. But [I'm] pretty horrified at the potential impact for busing to Marshall the following year."

What would impact your decision to use the school bus to get to Marshall?



Half of the families (52%) who said their child would ride the school bus said their decision about transportation would be based at least in part on how early their child had to get on the bus. As one respondent explained, "I worry about how early kids will have to be ready for school in order to get on the bus to Marshall for a 7:30 start time. It sounds bad for their sleep hygiene and I worry it will create a bad learning environment for all." One-third (34%) said their transportation choice would depend on the parent's work schedule, 8% said it would depend on the weather, and 5% said nothing would change their decision to use the

school bus. The vast majority of the families who said they anticipate challenges with the earlier start time plan on using the school bus to get to John Marshall (83%).

When asked which bell schedule worked best for their family, 44% said the current bell schedule was best and 44% chose the bell schedule that runs from 8:30 am - 3 pm. Only 9% preferred the 7:30 am start time. One respondent was concerned that "it's so early. It affects everything from getting up, after school care to bed time. We would never see our kid if she went to bed on time."

The survey was developed by Principal Ostbye and a team of JR parents. Families were asked for their child(ren)'s name(s) when they responded, but these names were deleted from the responses before data was compiled by parents. The responses were then anonymous.