

School Start/Dismissal Times Changing

Many families are aware that MMSD is changing start times starting in the 2019-2020 school year. Our school will have a major change next year. We are excited that our middle school will be among the first three to move to a later start time. Our start time will be 8:40 and our dismissal time will be 3:52. In addition, we are moving to a consistent early release time every Monday at 2:20.

We know families have many questions about this major change. Please check out the FAQs to answer many of the questions you may have. We will be reaching out to families to offer a meeting to further learn about the new start/dismissal times and address the questions you may have. Please also check out the [MMSD website](#) for further information.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How does the change in school start times affect how my middle school student will be transported? We are transitioning our middle schools students from Madison Metro to yellow busses. Badger Bus Lines will be transporting all middle school students who live more than 1.5 miles from school. (State of Wisconsin statute requires transportation for more than 2.0 miles.) Madison Metro dodgers will no longer run at schools that have shifted to a later start time.

Will the Badger Bus pick up at the same stop as the Metro Dodger? Many of the stops may be the same, but some will change. The stops will be similar to elementary schools and already existing yellow bus middle school service (with students walking up to ¼ of a mile and ½ of a mile respectively, to the nearest bus stop. The yellow busses will not stop at every block as was sometimes the case with Metro dodgers (Dodgers are the supplemental Metro bus routes that primarily transport MMSD students. They typically have a route number such as W3.)

When will we find out the stop information and time for our student? Busses will start their routes after they drop off at the elementary school which is around 7:40. Drop off times at the middle schools will be approximately 8:25. More detailed times will be posted in August as we near Fall Enrollment Days.

My student has received a bus pass in the past and it has worked better for him to ride a regular Madison Metro bus route. Will this be possible? Bus passes will not be provided to students whose middle schools have changed to a later start time. Students could still choose to ride a Metro Transit's mainline bus, however, MMSD will not purchase the bus pass. Funds for bus passes will be reallocated to partially cover the cost for yellow bus service.

My child did not qualify for bus service, but we purchased a bus pass so he could ride the Metro dodger. Will this be a possibility? Madison Metro dodgers will be discontinued as schools change over to a later start time. Parents can still choose to purchase a bus pass and have their child ride the main line route.

My child used her bus pass to ride home from our neighborhood center. Are you saying she will no longer get a bus pass? Yes, unfortunately MMSD cannot continue to purchase bus passes once a school has changed over. The funds used for bus passes will be needed to pay for yellow bus transportation. We do know there are other communities where the city provides bus passes for students. We do not have an immediate solution to this issue, but will support parents, students and schools who want to advocate for our students to receive bus passes. We know that about 33% of the rides used by middle schools students are not during school hours.

Will MSCR activities still be offered for middle schools students? Yes, we know these activities are valued by our families. We are currently working with MSCR and our schools at each site to ensure quality programming is still available. We are also working with neighborhood centers to ensure they are planning for the changes in school start times.