

**BAKERSFIELD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
UNIFORM BELL SCHEDULES
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

When are school start and end times changing for the Bakersfield City School District?

The new bell schedules will be effective with the 2018-19 school year beginning Wednesday, August 15th.

Why is the District changing bell schedules?

District staff have been analyzing District bell schedules and transportation routes for the past nine months to develop a plan to improve the current schedules for the 2018-19 school year. The current schedule is inefficient, causing students to arrive late for school in the morning and/or being dropped off late after school. Some students have very long bus ride times. The new schedule will help to reduce bus ride times and improve timeliness of bus routes. Pickup times will be more consistent and predictable for parents, improving safety for students.

What will the new start and end times be?

The new schedule will have three tiers to improve efficiency.

| School Level | Start | Normal End Mon/Tue/Thur/Fri | Bank Day End |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--|---------------------|
| Middle and Junior High | 7:35 | 1:53 | 1:05 |
| TK/Kindergarten Group A | 8:10 | 12:25 | 1:40 |
| Elementary Group A | 8:15 | 2:30 | 1:45 |
| TK/Kindergarten Group B | 8:50 | 1:05 | 2:20 |
| Elementary Group B | 8:55 | 3:10 | 2:25 |

Can I drop off my children early at school?

Each school will communicate with parents regarding what time students may be dropped off.

Will my bus stop change?

Bus schedules change from year to year based on the number of students at each stop. The transportation department carefully evaluates the needs of the community and the safest options for school bus stops.

Why can't all schools start and end at the same time?

BCSD currently transports approximately 8,700 students per day. The District, like other large districts, does not have the resources to have just one bell schedule for all schools. We are able to modify the two dozen different start times that we currently have down to only three different start times.

How will I be informed of bus route schedules?

The new schedules will be mailed out to parents during the summer before the start of school. The schedules will also be posted on the District's website at <http://bcsd.com/transportation> and be made available at every school office.

What will the schedule be for Bank Days (Wednesdays)?

Bank Day schedules will be listed on the mailer sent home in the summer and on the District Website. 1st - 8th grade students will be released earlier than normal each Wednesday. TK and K students will be released later than normal.

Will my elementary school be in Group A or Group B?

Schools were placed into one of two groups. Every attempt was made to minimize the number of minutes changed from the current start and end times to the new start and end times.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GROUP A

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Casa Loma Chavez College Heights Downtown Eissler Evergreen Fletcher Fremont | Harding Harris Hills Jefferson Mt. Vernon Noble Owens Primary Owens Intermediate Horace Mann | McKinley Munsey Nichols Penn Pioneer Roosevelt Thorner Frank West Williams |
|---|--|--|

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GROUP B

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Franklin Garza Hort Longfellow | Pauly Voorhies Wayside |
|---|------------------------------|

Will the District provide bus service for GATE and Magnet program students?

Beginning in August 2018, no busing is provided for students that choose to attend GATE and Magnet programs.

What process is available for parents who wish to request a transfer for their children to another school within the District?

The process has not changed. When a parent/guardian who resides in the District wishes to have their child/children attend another BCSD school, an intradistrict permit request must be submitted and approved through the Student Services Department.

- Approval of requests are determined by space available at each school. In the absence of an approved transfer, students are expected to attend the school in the attendance area in which they reside. Approved transfers are valid only through the highest grade in the school. When a child moves to middle school or high school, a new transfer will need to be completed.
- The parent/guardian accepts responsibility for transportation to and from school.

What if I have questions or comments?

Parents can send questions or comments to the following email address:

bellschedule@bcasd.com