

School Start Times

By Dr. Sara Ahern, Superintendent of Schools



The School Start Times Advisory Committee did a great job laying the foundation for a community dialogue about adjusting start times in Franklin. As a result of their work, feedback from families, and community inquiries, we began a second phase -- to deepen the exploration of adjusting start times.

At the May 28, 2019 School Committee meeting, I presented the first in a series of updates to the community. In part 1, I aimed to meet two objectives. First, I presented data related to selected wellness indicators associated with children and their sleep. I presented attendance data (specifically tardiness to school) from the current school year across all grades. Additionally, I examined historical trends in concussions, because the risk of concussion increases as a result of sleep deprivation. I also shared information we have gathered about the amount of sleep our students report getting on a typical school night.

This link will take you to the presentation:

https://www.franklinps.net/sites/franklinmaps/files/news/school_start_times_presentation_part_i_1.pdf

Within the presentation, I also further explained the scenarios explored by the SSTAC. Additionally, I examined several recently suggested scenarios and their relationship to bus transportation. Based on my presentation, the School Committee suggested I focus on further refining Model G, Model H2, and Model J (as noted in the presentation linked above).

I plan to present the next update (part 2 of the series) to the School Committee for a discussion at the second meeting in September (9/24/2019). At this presentation, the School Committee and interested community members will learn more information about the implications of these models. No decision is planned for that meeting.

We are also planning a family education evening in the fall to learn more about healthy sleep habits and children. We hope you will attend.