



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: January 29, 2020
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
From: AbdulSaleem Hasan, Ed.S., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Field Services
Deadline: Friday, March 6, 2020

Later School Start Times Pilot Program

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), in accordance with P.L. 2019, c.224, is required to develop a pilot program for school districts to implement a later school start time beginning in the 2020-21 school year for high school aged students. The four-year pilot program will include five New Jersey high schools representative of urban, suburban and rural communities in the south, central and northern regions of the state.

Research conducted by the American Academy of Pediatrics suggests that adolescent sleep deprivation is a critical problem that has numerous negative academic, health, safety, and well-being outcomes. Several studies throughout the country have suggested that delaying the start times for high school students can have statistically significant benefits to both students and the community. The purpose of the pilot program is to implement later school start times for high school students in selected school districts and assess the benefits, evaluate the negative impacts, and consider strategies to address barriers to instituting a later school start time.

Districts and their designated high schools applying to participate in the pilot must commit to the following:

- Submit a completed [application](#) that details how the implementation of a later start to the school day will serve to benefit students, including:
 - Information on the number of students in the high school, the current start time and schedule of the school day for high school students, and the rate of absenteeism and tardiness for the district's high school students from the 2018-19 school year
 - The findings of an assessment measuring teacher satisfaction, student engagement and attentiveness (schools can consider utilizing the [New Jersey School Climate Survey](#) to gather these data points)
- Implementation of a later school start time and monitoring of the associated impacts
- Ensuring that district and school leadership have committed the personnel time and resources necessary to accomplish project activities to lead to improved student outcomes
- Sharing specific measurement data, as requested by the NJDOE, consistent with [projected impacts](#) indicated in research conducted by the American Academy of Pediatrics on later school start times for adolescents
- Develop and execute a plan for the district to include families and the community in the implementation of this pilot program

School districts, charter schools and renaissance school projects with high schools, grades 9-12, that are interested in participating in this pilot program should complete the application and submit to the NJDOE's Office of Student Support Services at LaterSchoolStartTimes@doe.nj.gov by **Friday, March 6, 2020**.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner
NJDOE Staff

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group