

OPS Late Start Family Q&A

Q: What is a late start or early release?

- On days where weather may cause delays but not a full-day disruption, a 2-hour late start or 2-hour early release allows additional time for travel without sacrificing an entire day of classroom instruction.

Q: Why are two-hour late starts and two-hour early releases being explored this year?

- Every minute of instruction matters. If we can adjust the school day by two hours and safely welcome students for the majority of the day, we want to have that option. Many metro school districts are also utilizing this as an option this year.

Q: What does that mean for my family?

- In general, the 2-hour late start means your student's school day will begin 2-hours later than regularly scheduled. If your student qualifies for transportation, the bus will arrive approximately 2-hours later than regularly scheduled. The school day will end on time.
- In general, the 2-hour early release means your student's school day will begin as usual but end 2-hours earlier than normal. If your student qualifies for transportation, the bus would drop off your student at their stop approximately two hours earlier than regularly scheduled.
- If your student participates in half-day programs or has customized schedules, your student's teacher, principal or program administrator will be in touch with how a 2-hour late start or early release would affect you.

Q: My student has an individualized schedule. How does this affect them?

- If your student has an individualized transportation schedule or attends multiple buildings in a day, please look for follow up communication from your student's teacher, principal or program director on how a late start or early release might affect your family.

Q: Will there be Kids Club on late start or early release days?

- On a 2-hour late start day, Kids Club will **not** be available in the morning but will be available in the afternoon.
- On a 2-hour early release day, Kids Club will be available in the morning but will **not** be available in the afternoon.

Q: When will OPS decide to call a two-hour late start or two-hour early release?

- We strive to communicate schedule changes the day before a weather event. Due to forecasts and timing, district staff may need to make a decision the day of an event. In the event of a weather-related closure, we make every attempt to make any final decisions as early as possible to communicate with our families and staff.

Q: How will my family be notified?

- We would communicate a 2-hour late start or 2-hour early release the same way we do a snow day. Families will receive an email and phone call if they have entered their contact information for district alerts. We will post information to district social media accounts and share the news with media outlets.

Q: What if OPS calls a late start and I still do not think my student should attend school?

- Families always have the final say on whether or not it is appropriate for a student to attend school on a given day. Though every minute of classroom instruction is important, if conditions on a family's particular street lead them to feel it is better to stay home, they should call the school's main office to report the absence.

Q: What if my student's bus does not arrive on time?

- If your student's bus is delayed 15 minutes or more, students should return to their home and families should contact Student Transportation at 531-299-0140.

OPS Late Start Staff Q&A

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Q: What does that mean for my workday?

- That depends on your role with our team. In the staff communication, an attachment details the plan for adjusted schedules by group. If you have additional questions, please contact your immediate supervisor.

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