



MARYLAND | MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
health, safety and equity in education

## BOE Primary 2024 Election Candidate School Hours Questionnaire

Please return to: [startschoollatermontgomery@gmail.com](mailto:startschoollatermontgomery@gmail.com)

Candidate Name: Brenda M. Diaz\_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Based on the research that later middle and high school start times increase graduation rates and decrease absenteeism, with disadvantaged students benefiting the most from age- appropriate school hours, do you agree that MCPS secondary schools should start at 8:30 am or later?**

Yes, I wholeheartedly agree that MCPS secondary schools should start at 8:30am or later. I taught HS Social Studies at Gaithersburg High School and cheered for the Start School Later movement to be successful in their efforts.

- 2. Are you willing to commit to enacting a Board of Education Resolution within your first 100 days in office to officially establish a goal to start secondary schools in Montgomery County at 8:30 a.m. or later?**

Yes, I am willing to commit to enacting a Board of Education Resolution within my first 100 days in office to officially establish a goal to start secondary schools in Montgomery County at 8:30am or later.

**3. Before implementing later secondary school bell times, both Anne Arundel and Howard Counties each conducted a transportation study to inform this decision; Fairfax County is now in the process of doing the same to further adjust their bell times. Are you willing to commit to work toward funding a comprehensive transportation study during your first 100 days in office to look at all transportation resources the county has available, in addition to MCPS school buses, to achieve healthy bell times?**

I am committed to working toward funding a comprehensive transportation study during my first 100 days in office to look at all transportation resources the county has available, in addition to MCPS school buses, to achieve healthy bell times.

**4. Will you sign our [new petition](#) regarding bell times for teens, designed to replace petition from 2012 that has nearly 14,000 signatures on it? If not, please explain why.<sup>1</sup>**

Done!

**5. Is there anything else you would like voters and future potential to know about your position on safe, healthy, and age-appropriate school hours?**

My professional career has taken me through a variety of educational communities, including nursery schools, parent-led cooperative schools, my own [farm and forest program](#), and public and private schools across the District of Columbia and Maryland region. Through these experiences, I gained valuable insights into the multifaceted landscape of education and emerged as a champion for academic excellence.

As a candidate for the Board of Education, I aim to transform Montgomery County Public Schools by championing academic excellence, focusing on restoring safety, empowering students, families, and teachers, and ensuring responsible resource allocation through diligent oversight of our schools.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the iPetition survey hosting company may solicit a donation. No payment is required for your signature to be captured and counted. Such requests have nothing to do with Start School Later, which doesn't receive any funds from iPetition.

