



Health, Safety and Equity in Education

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GRASSROOTS GROUP FOR LATER SCHOOL START TIMES RESPONDS TO AACPS “SCHOOL HOUR STUDY”

Start School Later is, of course, delighted that AACPS is taking another look at this longstanding and complicated issue. However, we are deeply disappointed that this study was assembled without acknowledging the vast and compelling body of research showing that our current school hours are seriously harming the health, safety, learning, and equity of our students.

We are also disappointed that the report was written without considering the many creative, out-of-the-box ways that communities all over the country have found to return to later, healthier, and evidence-based hours. There's no need to speculate about what might happen under the three scenarios put forward by AACPS when there's plenty of evidence from school systems that have made this change showing that the tremendous benefit to cost ratio of starting school later than 7:17 a.m.

Good decisions are made when you decide on the most important things first and then find ways to solve the problems. At www.startschoollater.net, we continue to offer research studies that will provide answers to many of the questions raised in this report and will also provide a more solid frame of reference for public input. As a grass-roots group here in Anne Arundel County representing 3,660 parents, students, teachers, medical and mental-health professionals asking for healthy, safe and equitable school start times, we would like to be part of this conversation.

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