



Maryland | Statewide

health, safety and equity in education

BOE General Election Candidate School Hours Questionnaire

Please return to: startschoollatermontgomery@gmail.com

Candidate Name: Julie Yang

- 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 high schools should start at 8:30 am or later?**

The 8:30 AM (or later) starting time has merit on its own as evidenced by current research. With that said, in order for this to become a reality, it must have the full support of students, parents and staff since they will mostly be impacted by the time change. The Board must also consider changes to the budget and the logistics involved. The end goal is to ensure that the start times benefit those involved. We would need to survey the MCPS community and educate all those within the school system about the benefits of later start times.

- 2. 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 support pushing forth a comprehensive transportation study within 100 days of being sworn

into the Board of Education. This is crucial to help the system adopt to a 8:30 AM (or later) start times across the district. However, such a study may require much time and resources given their length and cost. The Board could consider putting forth such a study to the Montgomery County Council. I recommend that the Office of Legislative Oversight of the County Council take on the task of conducting the study for further information. Based on the outcomes of the Council's effort, the Board can come to an appropriate decision.

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

I have been an MCPS parent between 2006 to 2022 so I understand the value of having age-appropriate school hours so that our students can succeed. As a Board of Education candidate, I have heard from several community members express the need for a change in start times, which is why I am deeply committed to a study for later school start times to address a variety of needs. Contractual issues, child day care, high school sports, and transportation immediately come to mind as being important parts of this issue. I believe my background and experience working with, and for, all segments of the MCPS community will allow me to approach this issue in a thoughtful and detailed manner.