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Proposal to Change School Start Time

January 27, 2012 • 4 Comments

After an official vote taken by the Rio faculty determined that there would be no change in start time for the 2012-2013 school year.

The final vote was 57 percent in favor of not moving the start time, while 43 percent of teachers were in favor of moving the start time by 30 minutes.

Despite a straw poll taken in December showing over 60 percent of teachers support, those opposed to the change attacked the research presented by the parent group STEPS in the weeks that followed the poll.

In addition, a survey mailed home to parents found overwhelming opposition.

For STEPS members, the results have been “disappointing.”

“Although we are disappointed with the final outcome, we can understand it and we’re extremely grateful to all of the teachers for their time, professionalism, and careful consideration of the science in order to put



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students first,” STEPS representative Joy Wake said.

Teacher response to the change has been mixed throughout the process, while both parent and student input has been generally in favor of keeping the current start time, according to Mirada survey data.

“There’s people who set their schedules around school times. Not just the students, but also parents and siblings,” computer teacher Tom Sullivan said. “For me, I have to commute a lot to get her, and I’d just be sitting in traffic longer.”

However, other teachers don’t agree with the opposition.

“Whatever is best for the kids,” Physical Education teacher Brian Davis said. “I feel that students should’ve had more voice.”

Since last February, the STEPS committee has lobbied for a later start time.

The official vote came after months of compiling research, holding informational forums, and presenting to faculty.

-Jarett Hartman

4 Comments



4 Responses to “Proposal to Change School Start Time”

- Tom Nelson on January 27th, 2012 11:08 am



Having the whole school getting involved in the process of major decisions involving the education of our students has been good for Rio and the parents, teachers and students whose

engagement and participation is vital to a successful school.

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- [Schools Recently Delaying Start Times, etc.](#) « [The Impact of School Start Times on Adolescent Health and Academic Performance](#) on January 28th, 2012 1:31 pm

[...] among parents. Students also “generally” favored retaining the 7:50 a.m. start time. (Hartman, Proposal to Change School Start Time (Jan. 27, 2012) The Mirada.) This outcome appears consistent with literature noting teachers often [...]

- [Oblivious “Educators”](#) « [The Impact of School Start Times on Adolescent Health and Academic Performance](#) on February 25th, 2012 4:43 am

[...] 2011. Teachers opposed to the change “attacked the research” proffered by STEPS. (Hartman, Proposal to Change School Start Time (Jan. 27, 2012) The [...]

- [Terra Ziporyn Snider, Ph.D.](#) on May 31st, 2012 7:54 am

Many local schools find it virtually impossible to go back to traditional hours (e.g., 9-3:30) despite strong and consistent evidence that later starts are best for the overall health and well-being of students and communities. See my recent commentary in Education Week on why we may need to change our approach to this issue if we expect real and lasting change (<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2012/05/16/31snider.h31.html>). You might also want to check out Start School Later, a national coalition of health professionals, educators, parents, and other concerned citizens who are working together across the USA to ensure safe, healthy,

equitable school hours for all students (StartSchoolLater.net). We regularly deliver our online petition (tinyurl.com/82leprp) to Congressional and White House Offices to help put this issue on the national radar screen.

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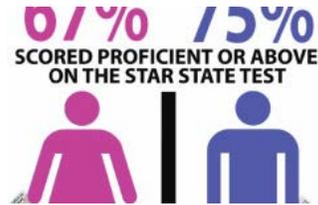
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