



TAUNTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Academic excellence for every student, in every classroom, in every school.

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Dear Taunton School Community Member:

The Taunton Public School district's mission is "academic excellence for every student, in every classroom, in every school." Ensuring the success of all 8,200 children in our school system is a tall order, but we work at it every day. In the spirit of continuous improvement, we make it our practice to keep an open mind and explore new ideas and possibilities that may benefit our children and families. In May 2016, the School Committee unanimously adopted a measure to "Conduct a Feasibility Study on Later School Start Times". Subsequently, a group of school and community members began studying the topic. On behalf of the Later School Start Time Committee, I am writing to invite you to participate in an upcoming survey to share your thoughts and opinions about a later start to school.

Our goal is to gain a wide variety of perspectives to determine the feasibility of a "late start" time in the Taunton Public Schools with a focus on Taunton High School. We are fortunate to have Bridgewater State University as our partner in conducting the feasibility study, and are now in the data-collection phase. We plan to examine the related research both for and against late school starts, and soon we will be conducting interviews, talking with representatives from other districts who have explored or adopted later start times, and surveying the opinions of all stakeholders in Taunton.

In the coming weeks, members of our school community will be invited to participate in an online survey that will be made available on the Taunton Public Schools website. We are hoping to hear from students, staff, administrators, parents and members of our community. You can expect to receive an email blast in the upcoming weeks with a link to our survey. Results of the data collection will be made public upon completion of the study.

You are an essential part of our school community and your voice matters. If you choose to participate in our survey, please be assured that there are no right or wrong answers. We want to hear from you whether you are for or against a later school start. I hope we can count on your participation in our upcoming survey, and I look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Dr. Julie Hackett
Superintendent of Schools
Taunton Public Schools