

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT THIRTY-NINE

Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Souhegan Cooperative School Districts



MICHAEL BERRY
Superintendent of Schools

STEVEN CHAMBERLIN
Assistant Superintendent

CHRISTINE LANDWEHRLE
Assistant Superintendent

MARGARET BEAUCHAMP
Director of Student Services

AMY FACEY
Business Administrator

MEMORANDUM

TO: Christine Peters, Chair SAU Board
SAU39 Board Members

FROM: Michael Berry Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Frequently Asked Questions---School Start/EndTime

DATE: April 25, 2024

Executive Summary

On August 31, 2021, the schools in SAU 39 began implementing a significant change to schooling: the change in the typical school day start and end time. Below are some questions that have been asked over the years since the change.





- 1. The amount of instructional time gained by SHS students if they aligned with AMS.**
 - a. Changing the SHS school day from 8:30-3 to 8:30-3:25 would add 20 mins per day. In a 175-day school year that would equate to 58.3 hrs. In a 170-day school year that would equal 56.7 hrs (about 8 7 hr school days).

- 2. From hours to days would make a difference.**
 - a. Moving back to a days-based calendar is an option, as it appears is collective bargaining agreements. The change back to days would reduce the student day by 20 minutes. The current *extended* school day is not considered long in comparison to other school districts. Increasing core institutional time was part of the rationale for the change in start time. Since 2013 - 2014, a time period addressing/supporting student social-emotional needs has been implemented as a best practice. Reducing the school day would result in either elimination of the social-emotional-directed time period or reducing core instructional time beyond what is critically needed. The hope is to keep the current length of the school day and increase instructional days through the collective bargaining process.

- 3. Attendance Data by year**
 - a. Total ADA is defined as the total days of student attendance divided by the total days of instruction.
 - b. Students do not need to be in school for the entire day to be considered attendance.
 - i. [District ADA By School and Year](#)

- 4. It has been heard that last year all students only attended an average of 140 days worth of school (claiming that each student missed 30 days worth of school).**
 - a. When looking at the attendance of Seniors there was a statement by then Principal, Mike Berry indicated on numerous occasions that when you combine, absences, tardies, dismissals, field trips, senior projects, senior hikes, senior week, college visits, athletics,

and co-curricular a student could very easily only attend roughly 140 full days of class at Souhegan High School.

- i. [2023-2024 AMS and SHS Attendance](#)
 1. In this document you can find samplings of student attendance.
 - ii. How many of those days were seniors significantly abbreviated school year last year?
 1. Class of 2023: Out of 175 days, the average ADA was 93.6% (164 days), the Median was 95.2% and the Mode was 97.7%.
 2. For Grades 9-12, the average ADA was 93.7 (162.4 days)
 3. Seniors are allowed to have no more than 5 days or 30 hrs less than the other grades. This is why they historically have Senior Week prior to Graduation
- 5. How many individual students at the high school are affected by needing to leave early for a sports game (by individual I mean if a student plays more than one sport they should only be counted once)?**
- a. There are 400 unique AMS athletes and 500 unique SHS athletes
- 6. In an average school year, how many total school hours are missed by our athletes? So this would be the average per athlete over all of their sports.**
- a. Depends completely on the sport played by individual students. Tracking data for the last 3 years is below
 - i.  2021-2022 Early Dismissals
 - ii.  2022-2023 Early Dismissals
 - iii.  2023-24 Early Dismissals
 - iv.  2023-24 AMS Early Dismissals
 - v. [D2 Start Times](#)
- 7. How many buses are late to AMS/HS each day?**
- a. [AMS and SHS late bus tracking](#)
- 8. What would be the cost of buses if we had a universal start time?**
- a. This is based on 170 days. Will need to add more for 5 snow days and PD days. The total would be \$454,977 and \$779,962. The work is already done. Also, we need to look at ridership more closely to come up with the right number of buses. We expect it is somewhere in between the 7 and 12.
 - i. 7 additional buses-Total Cost \$439,467
 1. ASD-\$275,677
 2. MVSD-\$53,923
 3. SCS- \$109,867
 - 12 additional buses-Total Cost \$753,372
 - ASD-\$472,589
 - MVSD-\$92,440
 - SCS-\$188,343