GREATER ALBANY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Greater Albany Public School Parents/Guardians,

Next school year will bring system-wide bell time changes across our district. There are several reasons for these changes.

As part of **continuous improvement**, we are adjusting schedules to improve learning opportunities. Improvements include:

- Our 14 elementary schools will be in one of two similar start/end time groups, rather than nine different schedules:
  - Young students need more sleep, go to bed earlier and rise earlier, providing a better learning experience.
  - The learning day will increase by 20 minutes.
  - All schools will have the same amount of learning time.

- Our middle schools will start later, resulting in the following:
  - Young adolescents sleep later; starting later is supported by research for this group.
  - All middle schools will have the same start and end times.
  - Later release results in less unsupervised time after school for adolescents (our current system leaves some students unsupervised between 2:30-5:30).

- Our high schools will start slightly later, again allowing the developmental needs of these learners to get a little more sleep.

Changes to our bell times will also improve **efficiencies in operations**. Improvements include:

- More uniform start and end times will improve delivery of professional development and use of our early release times for professional learning communities for collaboration.
- Increased efficiency of our transportation system with increased services and opportunities to students.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and for recently passing our bond.
Together, we can do great things for our children. Every student, Every day.

District Pillars:

Pillar 1: Schools produce good citizens
Pillar 2: All students graduate and go on to successful post high school outcomes
Pillar 3: Equity lens
Pillar 4: Continuous improvement principles are used system wide
Pillar 5: Efficient operations

Sincerely,

Jim Golden, Superintendent