

2023-2024 District School Calendar



Hamden Public Schools

2023-2024

School Calendar

(draft 3/17/23)

Dates may change if school is cancelled due to inclement weather, building conditions, or other unforeseen circumstances.

| November 2023 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

No School- Election Day/Prof Dev.- Nov. 7th
HMS/HHS- End of 1st Marking Period - Nov. 8th
No School- Veteran's Day- Nov 10th
Early Dismissal- Nov. 22nd
No School- Thanksgiving Recess- Nov. 23rd-24th
Elementary Report Cards Nov 29th

| March 2024 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S |
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| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

HHS Conferences- March 5th
HMS Conferences- March 6th
Elementary Report Cards- Mar. 6th
Early Dismissal- Prof. Dev.- Mar. 21st
Elementary Evening Conferences- Mar. 25th
Early Dismissal Elem. Afternoon Confer.- Mar 26th
Early Dismissal Elem. Evening Confer.- Mar 27th
No School- Good Friday- Mar. 29th

| August 2023 | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S |
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| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

Certified Staff- Aug 21st-24th
First Day of School- August 28th

| December 2023 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S |
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| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

No School- Prof Dev.- Dec 4th
Early Dismissal- Dec. 21st
No School- Holiday Recess- Dec. 22nd - Dec. 29th

| April 2024 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

HMS/HHS End of 3rd Marking period - April 2nd
No School- Eid al-Fitr- April 10th
No School- Spring Recess- April 15th-19th

| September 2023 | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

No School- Labor Day- Sept. 4th
No School- Yom Kippur- Sept. 25th
Schedule all Open Houses

| January 2024 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S |
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| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

No School- New Year's Day- Jan. 1st
No School- Three Kings Day- January 5th
HMS Conferences- Jan. 9th
HHS Conferences- Jan. 10th
No School- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day- Jan. 15th
HHS Midterm/Final Exams- Jan 18th- Jan 23rd
HMS/HHS End of Marking 2nd Period- Jan. 24th
Early Dismissal- Prof. Dev.- Jan. 25th

| May 2024 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

Early Dismissal- Prof. Dev.- May 16th
No School- Memorial Day- May 27th

| October 2023 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S |
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| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

No School- Indigenous Peoples' Day - Oct 9th
HHS Conferences- Oct 17th
HMS Conferences Oct. 18th
Early Dismissal - Prof. Dev.-Oct 19th
Early Dismissal Elem. Eve. Conference- Oct 26th
Early Dismissal Elem. Afternoon Confer.- Oct. 27th
Elem. Eve. Conference- Oct 30th

| February 2024 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S |
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| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | |

Early Dismissal- Prof. Dev.- Feb 15th
No School- Winter Recess/ Pres. Day- Feb 16th & 19th

| June 2024 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S |
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| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

Final Exams-TBD
Elementary Report Cards distributed on last day of classes
*Early Dismissal- Last Day of School- June 11th (tent.)
No School will be Scheduled- Juneteenth- June 19th

HPS Transportation and School Start Times





Transportation and School Start Times Background

In the summer of 2022, administration proposed a change to the 4-tier bussing system which meant there would be a change to school start times.

Ultimately, there was a decision to keep the 4-tier bussing system and have the 2022-2023 school year keep the same school start times.



Transportation and School Start Times Background

Current School Start and Dismissal Times

| School | Doors Open | School Starts | Dismissal |
|--|------------|---------------|-----------|
| Hamden High School | 7:10am | 7:31am | 2:00pm |
| Early Elementary Schools (Church Street, Dunbar Hill, Helen Street & Shepherd Glen) | 8:00am | 8:15am | 3:04pm |
| Late Elementary Schools (Bear Path, Spring Glen, Ridge Hill & West Woods) | 8:30am | 8:45am | 3:34pm |
| Hamden Middle School | 8:00am | 8:15am | 2:29pm |
| HCLC (Hamden Collaborative Learning Center) | 7:45am | 8:00am | 1:45pm |



Transportation and School Start Times Background

Where transportation and school start times are concerned, the process has included, but is not limited to the following:

- Multiple meetings with our Core Team and Executive Leadership Team throughout the process
- Meetings with the Chief Operating and Financial Officer (COFO), Tom Ariola and regional route planners at First Student Bus Company in order to further clarify our expectations and provide them with clear parameters for bus transportation
- Meetings with the Transportation Working Group comprised of parents, teachers, principals, district administrators, a First Student Bus Company Supervisor, and the COFO
- Multiple discussions at Board meetings
- An informative all parent communication was sent on January 23, 2023 briefing parents on the discussion of school start times, as well as the Wintergreen relocation
- First Student made a formal presentation for the full board on February 14, 2023



Transportation and School Start Times Background (continued)

On October 27, 2022, administration convened a working group of various constituent groups. The purpose of the working group was to:

- Serve as a representative body for multiple constituencies so that they can communicate about transportation (which would be in addition to direct communications with such groups)
- Get a deep understanding of the nuance and challenges of our current transportation design
- Provide feedback that will inform our thinking, and ultimately inform recommendations made to the Board of Education regarding school start times for the 2023-2024 school year.

Summary of Working Group Discussions

- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were 83 bus routes for the district. For the 2022-2023 school year, the number of routes was reduced to 72 due to a number of factors, including recruitment and retention of bus drivers and a 14% increase in the bus contract.
- While there was a general agreement that the 7:31 start time for Hamden High School is not the most desirable start time, there was a concern that many high schoolers need to be available to get their siblings from the bus after school
- We also have to consider that our busses have runs to do other than Hamden Public Schools, including Sacred Heart, Eli Whitney, Sound School, ECA, St. Rita's, Hamden Hall
- The proposal made in the summer of 2022 called for an hour difference in the Elementary School start times, which was problematic.
- A smaller differential in school start times (e.g. 15-20 minutes) would be reasonable for parents to adjust to.
- Elementary students don't do as well at the end of the day, so an hour later start means that they are in school an hour later than they currently are, which is especially challenging for Kindergarten and First Grade students
- Whatever the decision is has to be based upon what is best for students, and not only on what saves the district money
- No one seems to have a reasonable explanation as to why there is a 4-tier bussing system in the first place



Summary of Working Group Discussions (continued)

- Convened a second meeting of the working group on January 24, 2023
- First Student reviewed the current bussing situation and proposed changes
- A Google Doc was developed for all ideas from the working group



THOUGHT EXCHANGE SUMMARY

We created a ThoughtExchange with the following question:

How should the district proceed in changing the school start and end times to ensure the greatest level of efficiency and reliability?



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation

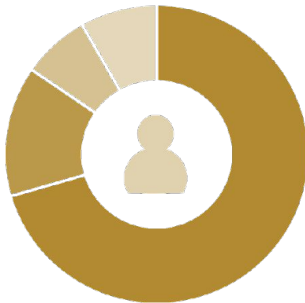


1,990
Participants



1,141
Thoughts

What best describes your role in our school community?



| % | | Answer |
|-----|--------|-------------------|
| 71% | (1339) | ■ Parent/Guardian |
| 14% | (264) | ■ Staff |
| 7% | (131) | ■ Student |
| 8% | (148) | ■ Other |

What building/school(s) are you most closely associated with?



1875
Responses

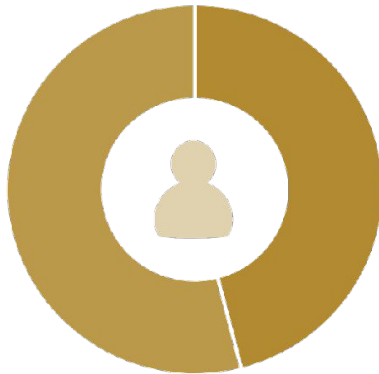
| % | | Answer (Multi-select) |
|-----|--------|-----------------------|
| 63% | (1186) | Elementary School |
| 51% | (969) | Middle/High School |
| 0% | (15) | Central Office |




PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation

Which proposed schedule change plan do you think would work best for the district? (HS- High School, MS- Middle School, ES- Elementary School)



| % |  | Answer |
|-----|---|---|
| 46% | (819) | ■ Start- HS 7:20am/MS 8:00am/ES 8:35am and End- HS 1:49pm/MS 2:34pm/ES 3:24pm |
| 54% | (959) | ■ Start- HS 7:30am/MS 8:10am/ES 8:45am and End- HS 1:59pm/MS 2:44pm/ES 3:34pm |

Option #1:

| School | Doors Open | Class Starts | Dismissal |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| HHS | 7:00am | 7:20am | 1:49pm |
| HMS | 7:40am | 8:00am | 2:34pm |
| Elementary Schools | 8:25am | 8:35am | 3:24pm |

Option #2:

| School | Doors Open | Class Starts | Dismissal |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| HHS | 7:10am | 7:30am | 1:59pm |
| HMS | 7:50am | 8:10am | 2:44pm |
| Elementary Schools | 8:35am | 8:45am | 3:34pm |



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation

| | | How do these changes impact you/your family? | | | | | |
|--|------------------|--|----------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | | Positively | Somewhat po... | Neutral | Somewhat ne... | Extremely ne... | I'm not sure |
| What best describes your role in our school community? | Parent/Guardi... | 15.1% (265) | 7.2% (127) | 34.2% (600) | 6.7% (117) | 4.8% (85) | 3.4% (60) |
| | Staff | 2.2% (39) | 1.0% (18) | 6.2% (108) | 2.2% (39) | 1.5% (26) | 0.7% (12) |
| | Student | 1.8% (31) | 0.5% (8) | 2.1% (36) | 0.9% (16) | 0.9% (16) | 0.8% (14) |
| | Other | 1.4% (24) | 0.8% (14) | 3.3% (58) | 1.4% (25) | 0.6% (10) | 0.4% (7) |
| | Total | 20.5% (359) | 9.5% (167) | 45.7% (802) | 11.2% (197) | 7.8% (137) | 5.3% (93) |
| | | Total | | | | | |
| | | 71.5% (1254) | | | | | |
| | | 13.8% (242) | | | | | |
| | | 6.9% (121) | | | | | |
| | | 7.9% (138) | | | | | |
| | | 100.0% (1755) | | | | | |

*Answers with less than 5 responses are hidden to protect identity.

0%  100%



THOUGHTS

Key Thoughts

The district should consider the impact of changing times based on before and after school care availability and work times for families and teachers. Changing times affects working families of students and affects teachers with families too. The decision shouldn't be taken lightly.

4.4 ★★★★★ (31 👤)
Ranked #1 of 1141

It is important to have on time, reliable transportation every day.

4.3 ★★★★★ (32 👤)
Ranked #2 of 1141

By ensuring parents are notified of this change well before it's implementation. Because late notification does not help with parents making arrangements for their children for before and after school

4.3 ★★★★★ (26 👤)
Ranked #3 of 1141

The district should go with the plan that allows for the later start time for the HS Research shows that HS students benefit from later start times to allow them to get more adequate sleep.

4.1 ★★★★★ (14 👤)

They should leave it the way it is. Parents have work schedules that are already in place around the hours of school operation now and a lot of jobs are not understanding or flexible.

4.0 ★★★★★ (27 👤)

Considerations

- Start high school later
- Impact on parents' work schedules
- Notifying parents well in advance
- Consider parent feedback
- If there is a need for change, minimize time changes to the smallest degree possible (e.g. 20 minutes)

Superintendent's Recommendation

The recommendation is that the High School starts at 7:20am, the Middle School starts at 8:00am, and all Elementary Schools start at 8:35am.

| School | Doors Open | Class Starts | Dismissal |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| HHS | 7:00am | 7:20am | 1:49pm |
| HMS | 7:40am | 8:00am | 2:34pm |
| Elementary Schools | 8:25am | 8:35am | 3:24pm |

Wintergreen Programs and Relocation





OVERVIEW

Why the Relocations?

- Town of Hamden sold Wintergreen to ACES last year
- Wintergreen Programs:
 - 6 Instructional Intervention Center (IICs) classrooms
 - 2 Academic Life Skills Classrooms (ALSC)
 - Hamden Collaborative Learning Center
 - High Roads middle school program
- Must vacate the building by June 30, 2023



OVERVIEW

Goals

- Desire to find permanent locations for all of these programs within our existing school buildings
- Budget constraints - leasing vs. existing school building
- Minimize impact to all programs during relocation
- Stakeholder feedback from parents and families, staff and students
- Ensure minimal transitions throughout educational career in Hamden
- Building tours to assess space, appropriate facilities, and minimizing impact of additional classrooms



Process Timeline

- *November 7* IIC Parent Input
- *November 10* IIC Staff Input
- *November 29* HCLC Staff Input
- *December 1* HCLC Parent Input
- *December 13* HHS Building Tour
- *December 21* Alice Peck Building Tours
- *January 26* HCLC Staff Input
- *February 21* Admin Team Planning
- *February 27* HCLC Staff Input
- *March 2* Alice Peck Staff Input
- *March 6* HCLC Parent Input
- *March 7* Alice Peck Parent Input
- *March 10* HCLC Student Input (postponed)
- *March 21* Admin Team Planning
- *March 30* HCLC Staff Tour of Alice Peck (tentative)



Wintergreen Relocations

- The High Roads Middle School Program will be relocated to Hamden Middle School
- Hamden Collaborative Learning Center will be relocated to Alice Peck
- Wintergreen IICs and ALSC will be relocated to other Hamden school buildings



Parent and Staff Input IIC/ ALSC Relocations

- Maintain effectiveness of programming
- Ensure curriculum for ALSC includes academic curriculum as well as life skills (looking for more of a balance of socialization and academics)
- Proximity to a neighborhood school to ensure shorter bus rides
- Incorporate sensory rooms, appropriate lighting, adequate space for support services



Parent and Staff Input IIC/ ALSC Relocations

- Ensure access to Literacy and Math Specialists for support
- Concern about reallocation of supports such as speech, OT/ PT
- Focus on finding permanent homes for programs and providing a K-6 continuum so as to minimize transitions
- Ensure access to typical peers
- Allow for siblings alternate placements if requested



Current Instructional Intervention Centers (IICs) and Academic Life Skills Classrooms (ALSC) Locations

- Current classrooms already housed within our buildings are:
 - Bear Path- 3 classrooms
 - Dunbar Hill-1 classroom and the Elementary High Roads Program
 - Helen Street- 2 classrooms
 - Ridge Hill-2 classrooms
 - West Woods- 2 classrooms
 - Wintergreen- 8 classrooms
 - Hamden Middle School- 3 classrooms
 - Hamden High School- 4 classrooms



Wintergreen Programs Relocations

Total classrooms in each building:

- **Alice Peck-** 6 HCLC Classrooms and related programming
- **Bear Path-** 3 classrooms
- **Church Street-** 2 classrooms
- **Dunbar Hill-** 1 classroom and the Elementary High Roads Program
- **Helen Street-** 2 classrooms
- **Ridge Hill-** 2 classrooms and an additional co-taught classroom
- **Shepherd Glen-** 1 co-taught classroom
- **Spring Glen-** 2 classrooms
- **West Woods-** 3 classrooms
- **Hamden Middle School-** 4 classrooms (+1)
- **Hamden High School-** 5 classrooms (+1)



Hamden Collaborative Learning Center

Parent and Staff Input

- Preserve integrity of programs currently housed at Alice Peck and HCLC
- Desire to have permanent facility for HCLC students
- Age difference between students in both programs
- Security/safety (cameras, security guard, metal detectors)
- Sufficient parking spaces
- All classroom spaces, offices, and bathrooms are appropriate for needs



Hamden Collaborative Learning Center

Parent and Staff Input

- Increase elective opportunities for students in HCLC (culinary arts, STEM, Fine Arts, World Language)
- Expand HCLC and HHS hybrid programming opportunities (last two periods of the day instead of one)
- Increase opportunities for vocational experiences through community partnerships
- Continued internship opportunities
- More targeted mental health and behavioral supports for students in HCLC



Transition Planning

- All impacted staff and building leaders informed of program relocations
- Transition planning for parents and students (inclusive of building tours)
- Work with Facilities department for moving classrooms in a timely fashion
- Alice Peck Building:
 - Applying for State of CT School Security Grant for items such as metal detectors, cameras, locks, lighting, etc.
 - Finalize building usage plan
 - Minor renovations to ensure the facilities are appropriate for the intended use