

# FACT SHEET: TRANSPORTATION & BELL TIMES

To stop the cycle of budget deficits, MPS is committed to structurally balancing its revenues and expenses by school year 2019-20. This means taking a hard look at where it can cut back on spending. The causes for the budget deficits are complex, but overarching reasons include:

- Unfunded or underfunded government mandates such as special education and English language services
- Increases to negotiated staff salaries and benefits
- Enrollment declines
- Levels of transportation service
- Inflation



## The Inefficiency: Current Start Times

- 29 different start times for 68 schools
- 21 schools with regular education bussing have start times between 7:30 a.m. – 8:05 a.m.
- Only 6 schools have start times after 9:30 a.m.
- Imbalance means 78 extra buses needed for rush hour but not later in morning
- To balance this, more schools need to shift closer to 9:30 a.m. tier
- **Getting multiple, extended runs from one bus is where cost savings come**
- Fewer buses on longer shifts means less fuel and maintenance, less driver turnover and a more stable driver workforce; in turn, more consistent drivers forges better relationships with students and results in safer buses

## Transportation Savings

- **\$2M savings** for proposed bell time changes effective FY2018-19; **see next page for the list of proposed new bell times**
- Goal was to keep change in bell times to no more than 1 hour
- 4 out of 20 schools have a 70-minute change
- Input gathered from: District Parent Advisory Council, Special Education Advisory Council, Bell Time Committee (department leaders; school principals)

## Budget Timeline 2018

The proposed bell times changes will be voted by the Board of Education as part its overall budget approval process as outlined here:

- **Jan. 25:** Board of Education Finance Committee presented with bell times recommendations
- **Feb. 13:** Board of Education hears update an overall FY2018-19 budget recommendation
- **April/May 2018:** Board of Education reviews update of FY2018-19 budget
- **June 2018:** Board votes on final FY2018-19 budget

## Did you know?

- 70% of MPS' 35,717 students receive district transportation.
- More than 380 buses are needed to transport students.
- There are 180 bus routes with over 3,680 runs; a bus "run" is between a home stop and school while a "route" is a compilation of runs.
- Annually, over 6 million miles are traveled to/from school and activities.
- The median annual transportation cost by school is \$494,000.
- The transportation cost per student is:
  - \$998 for regular education
  - \$4,255 for special education
  - \$3,310 for homeless/highly mobile