

# Daily Herald

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## How about 8 a.m. start?

### Latest District 15 plan has 2 different start times

**By Chad Brooks**  
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School could be starting earlier next year in Palatine Township Elementary District 15, but it might not be as early as originally proposed.

The school board will consider a plan Wednesday that calls for all schools in the district to start at one of two times — 8 a.m. or 8:50 a.m. — beginning this fall.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at Walter Sundling Junior High, 1100 N. Smith St., in Palatine.

Originally, the district floated a plan that called for nine schools to start as early as 7:45 a.m., which angered some parents.

Superintendent Robert McKanna said the district adjusted that earliest start time to 8 a.m., in part bowing to parent concerns over the 7:45 a.m. suggested start.

“We thought 8 a.m. just made a bit more sense,” he said.

Some districts start all their schools at the same time. But because of the number of students and buses, District 15 operates a system with schools starting at 7:55, 8:30 and 9:10 a.m. The district also buses parochial students to their schools, which start at 7:15 a.m.

“We can do it much more efficiently in terms of dollars,” McKanna said on why the change is being considered.

On a daily basis, District 15’s transportation department carries 10,500 students on 138 buses.

One benefit of the proposal, McKanna said, is that it would eliminate the current 9:10 a.m. start time, which has never been very popular.

“The whole goal is not getting people starting so late,” McKanna said.

The change will also give parochial schools about 30 minutes of additional instructional time, which McKanna said they have asked for.

The change in start times is not expected to affect the district’s before- and after-school Children’s Activity, Recreation, and Enrichment Program, he said.

For details on the plan, visit the district’s web site at [www.ccsd15.net](http://www.ccsd15.net).

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