

NO on Senate Bill 328



Senate Bill 328 would prohibit non-rural California middle and high schools from starting the regular school day before 8:30 a.m.

Urgent Action Needed from Governing Board Members:

Make an immediate call to your Assemblymember to ask him or her to vote “NO” on SB 328 (Portantino, D-La Cañada Flintridge). SB 328 failed passage on the Assembly Floor in September 2017, but was **granted reconsideration and amended on Thursday, August 16** and can be heard on the Assembly Floor at any time.

1. Call your Assemblymember’s Capitol office:

Assembly roster/phone list: assembly.ca.gov/assemblymembers

Find your Assemblymember: findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov

2. Tell whomever answers the phone your name, title and school district/county office of education name.
3. Tell him/her that you are calling to ask the Assemblymember to **vote “No” on Senate Bill 328 (Portantino)**, the school start time bill.

Important notes:

The California School Boards Association does NOT oppose later start times. However, CSBA does oppose a mandate on when schools can begin their classes. Decisions related to school start times are a local control issue for all school districts, and should be made by local governing boards with input from students, parents, teachers, school staff and members of the community. **On Aug. 16**, [SB 328](#) was amended to delay implementation to July 1, 2021 and state that the bill shall not apply to rural school districts, with “rural” not defined in the bill.

Why a mandate on later starts can create issues for students, parents, schools and the community:

When making calls to your legislators about SB 328, **you will not have time to cover all of this information – you will likely only have time to simply request a “No” vote.** The points on the next page are intended to provide background and context on the issues that could arise and how students and families would be affected if local middle and high schools are required to begin the regular school day at 8:30 a.m. or later (not including zero period).

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Getting to school

In an era of school choice, many students do not live within reasonable walking or biking distance of the schools they attend. The remaining options for a **safe route to school** are taking a bus or being dropped off by parents.

Disproportionate impacts:

This law would disproportionately impact students whose parents **do not have the option** to drop them off at school at a later time – this is a particular concern for low-income families. Many students will still be dropped off at school at the same time they currently arrive, which could be as much as **60 to 90 minutes** before an 8:30 a.m. first bell. Many schools do not have the resources necessary to provide before-school programs or proper supervision that will **ensure student safety** before the first bell rings.

Buses:

Most school districts have a **limited number of buses**. As such, districts must stagger the start times for all of their schools to properly serve all students. If middle and high schools are forced to start at 8:30 a.m. or later, many districts will be unable to serve all of their students with the buses they currently have.

SB 328 does not provide additional funding to reimburse school districts for the costs of new buses. This creates problems for students who live several miles away from their schools, which creates the need for longer bus routes. In areas with more traffic congestion, this means that school buses will be on the road at the same time as morning commuters.

Later start times = Later end times

Every student in every California school, **by law**, must receive a certain number of instructional minutes per day. This means that if a school must **start later**, it must **end later**.

Athletics: Later start times can cause significant logistical issues with availability of school athletic facilities for all students who use them, as well as with scheduling events to minimize the amount of classroom time students will miss for practices, games and matches.

Extra-curricular activities: Like athletics, later ending times mean less after-school time available for students to participate in extra-curricular activities – including **part-time jobs**, which some families rely on for needed income.

Homework: A later start time would not change the amount of homework students are required to complete – this means that many students will not get the additional sleep that a later start endeavors to provide.