

School Start Time Compliance Report

1. Name of School District or Charter School Governing Board: City of Pembroke Pines Charter Schools
2. Complete this table to indicate the 2026-27 start time for each elementary, middle and high school. Add rows as needed or attach a locally created spreadsheet.

Name of School	School Start Time
City of Pembroke Pines Charter Elementary School (06-5051)	8:45 am students 8:00 am staff
City of Pembroke Pines Charter FSU Lab School (73-0351)	8:45 am students 8:00 am staff
City of Pembroke Pines Charter Middle School (06-5081)	8:45 am students 8:00 am staff
City of Pembroke Pines Charter High School Academic Village (06-5121)	7:15 am students 7:00 am staff

3. Describe the strategies considered to implement a later school start time for middle schools and high schools within the school district/governing board, including the number of board meetings, public hearings, and opportunities for parent input to discuss the strategies.

The City of Pembroke Pines Charter Schools (PPCS) considered multiple strategies to implement later school start times for middle and high schools in response to Florida Statute §1001.42(4)(f). Beginning in December 2025, the district initiated a comprehensive review process that included stakeholder feedback, financial analysis, transportation studies, leadership discussions, and public presentations.

As part of the process, PPCS administration shared information regarding the proposed start time changes with staff and gathered informal feedback related to scheduling concerns, student performance, transportation, childcare, athletics, and after-school activities. In addition, the City completed a financial analysis that projected transportation costs would increase by approximately \$3,777,907 annually if the new start times were implemented.

The leadership team reviewed several operational strategies to minimize the financial and logistical impact of the mandated changes. One proposed option included adjusting high school student hours from 7:15 a.m.–2:00 p.m. to 9:30 a.m.–4:15 p.m., while elementary and middle school schedules would shift from 8:45 a.m.–3:15 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

In March 2026, PPCS partnered with the Transportation Authority to conduct route testing and traffic studies involving the high school, west campus, and central campus. The findings indicated that traffic congestion would create difficulties in meeting required drop-off and pick-up times and would also result in some elementary and middle school students waiting for buses before sunrise during portions of the school year.

To provide opportunities for public and parent input, PPCS distributed surveys in April 2026 to staff, families, and high school students. Stakeholders were asked to provide feedback regarding the potential impact of the proposed start times on student learning, employment, childcare, and transportation. The surveys also allowed participants to elaborate on concerns and indicate whether they preferred maintaining the existing schedules or moving to the proposed schedules. A total of 289 staff members, 2,110 family members, and 810 high school students responded. The majority of each stakeholder group supported maintaining the existing start times.

Additionally, presentations regarding the proposed start time changes were shared during School Advisory Board meetings, providing further opportunities for parents and community members to discuss the strategies and share feedback. PPCS reported that at least five Advisory Board meetings included presentations or discussions related to the proposed school start times. PPCS has also presented to the Governing Board at a City of Pembroke Pines Commission meeting. This provides the community at large to provide feedback on the proposed changes.

Based on the financial analysis, transportation studies, stakeholder feedback, and community discussions, PPCS determined that maintaining the current start and end times was in the best interest of the district and elected to pursue a waiver request through the Florida Department of Education.

4. Describe the impact of implementing the school start time requirements in section 1001.42(4)(f)2., F.S., including the financial impact for the school district/governing board.

Implementation of the school start time requirements outlined in Florida Statute §1001.42(4)(f)2., F.S., would have a significant operational, logistical, and financial impact on the City of Pembroke Pines Charter Schools (PPCS) system. PPCS conducted a comprehensive review process that included transportation studies, financial analysis, stakeholder feedback, and operational planning to determine the potential effects of shifting middle and high school start times.

One of the most significant impacts identified was transportation. The City's analysis projected that transportation costs would increase by approximately \$3,777,907 annually if the proposed start times were implemented. Additional transportation analysis determined that implementing a system-wide 8:45 a.m. start time model would require the hiring of approximately 24 additional bus drivers and the purchase of approximately 15 additional school buses to accommodate revised routes and schedules. The transportation review also identified the need for approximately 54 total bus routes across the system.

In March 2026, transportation route testing conducted with the Transportation Authority revealed that traffic congestion would negatively impact the ability to transport students to the Charter High School within the required timeframes. The study also identified concerns regarding elementary and middle school students waiting for buses before sunrise during certain times of the year.

The implementation of later start times would also significantly affect students, families, and employees throughout the system. Surveys distributed in April 2026 asked stakeholders to evaluate the potential impact on student learning, employment schedules, childcare availability, athletics, extracurricular activities, and transportation. The majority of respondents from all stakeholder

groups supported maintaining the current start times rather than moving to the proposed schedules. Specifically, 67.8% of staff, 77.5% of families, and 87.2% of high school students favored retaining the existing schedules.

Additionally, PPCS leadership determined that the proposed changes would substantially alter employee work schedules, student extracurricular participation, and family routines. Proposed schedules would shift high school student hours from 7:15 a.m.–2:00 p.m. to 9:30 a.m.–4:15 p.m., while elementary and middle school schedules would shift to earlier start times. These changes raised concerns related to after-school supervision, student employment opportunities, athletic travel, childcare arrangements, and overall operational efficiency throughout the system.

Based on the financial burden, transportation limitations, operational challenges, and stakeholder feedback, PPCS concluded that implementation of the mandated start times would have a detrimental impact on the overall effectiveness and sustainability of the system.

5. Describe the identified unintended consequences to the school district/governing board, students, and the community by implementing the school start time requirements in section 1001.42(4)(f)2., F.S.

The City of Pembroke Pines Charter Schools (PPCS) identified several unintended consequences that could negatively impact the system, students, families, employees, and the surrounding community if the school start time requirements outlined in section 1001.42(4)(f)2., F.S., were implemented. These concerns were identified through stakeholder surveys, transportation studies, leadership discussions, and School Advisory Board presentations.

One of the primary concerns identified was the negative impact on transportation and traffic patterns throughout the community. Transportation testing conducted in March 2026 demonstrated that increased traffic congestion during the proposed arrival and dismissal windows would create difficulties transporting students to school on time. Stakeholders also expressed concerns that later high school dismissal times would significantly worsen afternoon traffic congestion during peak commuting hours.

Families and staff consistently identified childcare and employment challenges as unintended consequences of the proposed schedule changes. Parents reported that earlier elementary and middle school dismissal times would require additional aftercare services and create financial hardship for working families. Many respondents stated that they would be unable to transport students to school due to conflicts with work schedules, while others expressed concern about the increased cost of before- and after-school care. Staff members also indicated that revised schedules would negatively impact their own childcare arrangements and family obligations.

Another significant unintended consequence identified was the impact on extracurricular activities, athletics, fine arts programs, and student employment opportunities. Stakeholders expressed concern that later high school dismissal times would force practices, rehearsals, tutoring, clubs, and athletic competitions to occur late into the evening or before school hours, which many believed would defeat the intended purpose of improving student sleep schedules. Students involved in band, theater, athletics, and outside activities reported that practices and events could extend late into the evening, reducing time available for homework, family interaction, and sleep.

Students and families also expressed concern that later dismissal times would reduce opportunities for part-time employment, volunteering, tutoring, and participation in non-school affiliated activities throughout Broward County that would continue operating on the existing county schedule. Several survey responses indicated that students who currently work after school to support themselves or their families could lose income opportunities because employers may not accommodate later work start times.

Additional unintended consequences identified included concerns related to student supervision and safety. Survey responses noted that some elementary and middle school students would be required to wait for buses before sunrise, while others could arrive home significantly later due to extended bus routes and traffic congestion. Families also raised concerns regarding older siblings who currently assist with caring for younger siblings after school, stating that revised schedules would eliminate this support and create additional financial burdens for childcare.

Stakeholders additionally expressed concern that later dismissal times could negatively affect student stress levels, homework completion, mental fatigue, and family time. Many respondents indicated that students may not ultimately receive additional sleep because extracurricular activities, homework, employment, and social commitments would simply shift later into the evening. Several students and staff noted that students may become mentally fatigued later in the day and that overall academic performance and engagement could decline during extended afternoon instructional hours.

Based on stakeholder feedback, operational studies, and transportation analysis, PPCS determined that implementation of the mandated start times could create substantial unintended consequences impacting the overall efficiency of the system, student participation opportunities, employee schedules, family stability, transportation operations, and community traffic patterns.

Email this report to SchoolList@fldoe.org by June 1, 2026.