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School starting times well received by FCCPS families Survey results indicate need for closer look at middle school

The results of the recent FCCPS school starting times survey are in, and the overall response was positive. Nearly half of the school division's households responded to the survey, and most indicated that they have adjusted well to this year's change in school starting times. However, parents of middle school students commented that a starting time later than the current 7:30 a.m. start would be preferable.

A total of 554 households responded to the survey. Of those, **67.4%** indicated that their children have adapted well or very well to the new times, **10.5%** indicated a neutral response, and **22.2%** indicated that their children's ability to adapt was fair or poor.

When it comes to academic performance, **16.2%** reported the new times had a positive impact, **59.7%** indicated the new starting times had no impact on academic performance and **24.1%** reported a negative impact.

When it comes to after-school activities, **16.6%** indicated that the new times had a positive impact on their children's ability to participate, **69.3%** said the new times had no impact and **14%** reported a negative impact.

When it comes to child care needs, **10.2%** of the respondents said the new starting time had a positive impact, **72%** reported no impact and **17.2%** indicated a negative impact.

The Falls Church City school board will use the survey results to determine whether the school starting times should be revised. The survey indicated that **33.9%** of the respondents would be unlikely to support a change in school starting times, **30.8%** had no preference and **35.3%** indicated they would likely support a change, although many commented that the support would depend on what the proposed change would be.

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