

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to middle school and high school start  
 3           times; amending s. 1001.42, F.S.; removing a  
 4           requirement that middle schools and high schools start  
 5           by specified times beginning in a certain year;  
 6           requiring district school boards to consider certain  
 7           benefits relating to school start times when adopting  
 8           middle school and high school start times; providing  
 9           an effective date.

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 11   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 13           **Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subsection (4) of section**  
 14 **1001.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

15           1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.—The  
 16           district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all  
 17           powers and perform all duties listed below:

18           (4) ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND OPERATION OF  
 19           SCHOOLS.—Adopt and provide for the execution of plans for the  
 20           establishment, organization, and operation of the schools of the  
 21           district, including, but not limited to, the following:

22           (f) Opening and closing of schools; fixing uniform date;  
 23           middle school and high school start times.—Adopt policies for  
 24           the opening and closing of schools, fix uniform dates, and  
 25           middle school and high school start times.

26 | 1. The opening date for schools in the district may not be  
27 | earlier than August 10 of each year.

28 | 2. ~~By July 1, 2026, the instructional day for middle~~  
29 | ~~schools may not begin earlier than 8 a.m. and the instructional~~  
30 | ~~day for high schools may not begin earlier than 8:30 a.m.~~ Each  
31 | district school board must inform its community, including  
32 | parents, students, teachers, school administrators, athletic  
33 | coaches, and other stakeholders, about the health, safety, and  
34 | academic impacts of sleep deprivation on middle school and high  
35 | school students and consider the benefits of a later school  
36 | start time when adopting middle school and high ~~and discuss~~  
37 | ~~local strategies to successfully implement the later school~~  
38 | start times.

39 | **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.