

Dear Board of Education,

Thank you for taking time out of your busy day to read our letter. We believe that our current schedule at Perry High School has some great benefits for students. One of these is I.C.E, the 20 minute period where students can relax, regroup, or choose to do some of their homework before their next class. This gives students some freedom by allowing them some time for themselves. We all appreciate all the time and work you have put into the high school schedule, however, we believe there is a more efficient schedule which we could be following. As we create a new schedule, we considered all the different pieces to create a schedule starting with the Ohio requirements. The minimum amount of classroom hours for 7-12 graders in one school year is 1,001 hours, and we have reached over this minimum with our new schedule. We hope you will consider our ideas.

Current Schedule

0 Block	7:25am-7:45am
1st Block	7:50am-9:15am
2nd Block	9:20am-10:45am
ICE	10:45am-11:05am
3a Block	11:09am-11:39am
3b Block	11:41am-12:11pm
3c Block	12:13pm-12:43pm
3d Block	12:45pm-1:15pm
4a Block	1:20pm-2:03pm
4b Block	2:07pm-2:48pm

New Schedule

0 Block	8:21am-8:41am
1st Block	8:45am-9:55am
2nd Block	9:59am-11:09am
ICE	11:13am-11:33am
3a Block	11:37am-12:12pm
3b Block	12:16pm-12:51pm
3c Block	12:55pm-1:30pm
4a Block	1:34pm-2:09pm
4b Block	2:13pm-2:48 pm

Having a shorter school day would benefit Perry Local Schools for many reasons. Perry Schools have always tried to get students involved in activities such as sports, music, and various clubs. However, these activities tend to leave students with a small amount of time to do schoolwork, causing students to not study, lose sleep trying to study, or failing to gain proficiency in their schoolwork. With a shorter school day, kids will have more time outside of school to be involved in extracurricular activities, as well as being able to complete their classwork. Additionally, it is commonly known that teachers tend to start class later than the official start time on a regular basis. As a result, classes feel very slow and long, causing students to get bored or tired during classes. On the other hand, if classes were to be shorter and have more pressure to begin on time, it will create the sensation of faster classes and students will be more engaged.

By shortening the length of the school day, there is the option to start school later. According to the National Sleep Foundation, the average teen gets less than 7 hours of sleep because of homework and extracurriculars, but to perform to their best abilities need on average about 9 hours of sleep. We can fix this by starting later so kids can have more time for themselves. Furthermore, there will be less of a need for staff days during the school year because teachers can arrive to school early and have all of their meetings before students arrive. A popular counterargument of starting school later is that extracurricular activities will be affected. However, with a shorter school day, there is the flexibility to begin the school day later while still ending the day at the same time to avoid potential after school affiliations.

In conclusion, we believe that shortening the school day would benefit students and teachers alike. Students will have more time to be involved and balance schoolwork with extracurricular, and teachers will have more time to themselves for things such as lesson plans. We hope that you take the time to consider the positives of a shorter school day listed above.

“Later School Start Times: Benefits & Cons.” *National Sleep Foundation*,
www.sleepfoundation.org/articles/backgrounder-later-school-start-times.

Ink, Teen. “Why Students Need Shorter School Days.” *HuffPost*, HuffPost, 12 Jan. 2012,
www.huffpost.com/entry/high-school-pressure-student_n_1090158. “Guidance on Schedule

Change from Days to Hours.” *Ohio Department of Education*, 2019,
education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/Finance-Related-Data/Guidance-on-Schedule-Change-from-Days-to-Hours.

Thank you for your time,