

Bell Math Standards

V1_3 Updated 008/21/2019

The terms “late bell” and “release bell” are typically what we use for this math. Some schools use the terms first bell, tardy bell, instruction bell and so on. The Route planning platform and all reports utilize “AM Bus Arrive Times” and “PM Bus Depart Times” and not bells. This document is to help us all standardize on these terms.

Definitions of Standard Terms.

Late Bell. This is the last bell notifying students that they are officially late to class.

AM Bus Arrive Time. This is the planned time a bus/sedan must be inside the proper loading zone at least 15 minutes prior to the Late Bell. School personnel union rules often preclude them from meeting the bus at this time. This extra 5 minutes was added to allow the vehicles to be late somewhere along the route, but still make the AM Bus Met Time.

AM Bus Met Time. This is the planned time a bus must be met by school staff to offload students at least 10 minutes prior to the Late Bell. If a vehicle shows after this time it is officially “late”.

Release Bell. This is the bell that releases the students from class to exit the building for the day.

PM Arrive Time. This is the time that the vehicles must be in the appropriate loading zone 5 minutes prior to the Release Bell. Typically this is a PM pickup time but may also be a midday time.

PM Bus Depart Time. This is the time that school staff should be releasing the buses to depart the loading zone. This time varies by school population age.

-Elementary students need 5 minutes.

-High School and Middle School students attend larger schools and utilize lockers so they need 10 minutes from the Release Bell to the PM Bus Depart Bell.

-K-8, K-12, and Community Transitions schools are also given 10 minutes.

Examples demonstrating Bell Math.

AM Bell Math Example.

8:30 AM = Late Bell.

8:20 AM = AM Bus Met Time. This is 8:30 minus 10 minutes. This is the latest a bus can arrive at a school and not be late. This is the time the school must meet the bus.

8:15 AM = AM Bus Arrive Time. 8:20 minus an extra 5 minutes of contingency time to allow the bus to be late along the route. Buses do NOT have to be met by school staff at this time per union staffing rules, but many schools will meet the buses at this time.

PM Bell Math Example.

3:00 PM = Release bell.

2:55 PM = PM Arrive Time. Arrive time for buses to show at a school to pickup students.

3:05 PM = PM Bus Depart Time. Bus release time from school loading zone for an Elementary school site.

3:10 PM = PM Bus Depart Time. Bus release time from school loading zone for school sites that are K-8, K-12, 6-8 or high school.

Graphical Early Release Wednesday Bell Math Example

Example: AM Tardy Bell = 9:00AM
PM Release Bell on Wed = 1:00PM
PM Release Bell on M, T, H, F = 3:00PM

MTWHF Arrival Time to School = 8:45 AM.

Wednesday Departure Time from School = 1:10PM

MTHF Departure Time from School

| Transportation Information | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------|-------------|--|---------|---------|--|
| Transportation Information | | | | | | | |
| Request Information: | | Type:IN | Status:Ride | From: Home Address | | | |
| | | Days:All | | To: Community Transitions Center NE | 8:45 AM | | |
| From | Time | Route | BusDays | To | Time | Package | |
| Home Address | 7:52 AM | QTOCTN-A | MTWHF | COMMUNITY TRANSITIONS CTR NE | 8:45 AM | QTO | |
| Request Information: | | Type:OUT | Status:Ride | From: Community Transitions Center NE | 1:10 PM | | |
| | | Days:W | | To: 12600 NW Rock Creek Rd [E] | | | |
| From | Time | Route | BusDays | To | Time | Package | |
| COMMUNITY TRANSITIONS CTR NE | 1:10 PM | QTOCTN-E | W | Home Address | 2:02 PM | QTO | |
| Request Information: | | Type:OUT | Status:Ride | From: Community Transitions Center NE | 3:10 PM | | |
| | | Days:MTHF | | To: 12600 NW Rock Creek Rd [E] [E] [E] | | | |
| From | Time | Route | BusDays | To | Time | Package | |
| COMMUNITY TRANSITIONS CTR NE | 3:10 PM | QTOCTN-P | MTHF | Home Address | 4:08 PM | QTO | |