

## **Indy Star**

# **Let's go back in time to Central for sake of schoolkids' safety**

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David Miller's recent letter is right on about teens needing additional sleep, but a later start of school is an impractical solution. Think back. When Eastern time began creeping into Indiana in the early 1960s, most students walked to neighborhood schools, which could set their own start times. With school consolidation, bus transportation became a necessity. Today, most school districts run multiple bus routes resulting in staggered start times for schools.

Typically, middle and high schools start around 7:30 a.m. and elementary schools around 8:30 a.m., but sometimes these are reversed. Some large districts in Marion County even run three bus routes with three staggered start times. Most school districts begin picking students up as early as 6:30 a.m. when it is pitch black outside.

The simplest solution is for Indiana to return to its geographically correct Central time zone when the latest sunrise would be 7:18 a.m. All students would benefit by the added safety of sunlight when they travel to school and they would be awake when school starts.

Indiana's schoolchildren comprise 21 percent of our total population. Every morning they have to travel to school in the dark, their safety is put at risk. Restoring the Central time zone costs nothing and benefits all students and their education.

**Sue Dillon**

*Carmel*