

Questions School Boards and Administrators Might Ask

What is the cost of changing from Eastern to the Central Time Zone? Nothing. It's free. All we need to do is to not move our clocks ahead one time.

Would this mean that students would be arriving home from school in darkness? No. Twilight lasts about 40 after sunset so the earliest darkness on Central Time would occur around 5 p.m. Most bus routes are completed around 4 pm.

How would a switch to Central Time affect school athletics? IHSAA Commissioner Cox didn't see a problem for athletics. There would be no effect on winter sports since all are played indoors and spring & fall sports would require the same scheduling considerations as prior to the adoption of Eastern Daylight Time in 2006.

On the other hand, with the late sunsets of EDT the sun is shining right into the eyes of the eastern sideline fans and referees.

The hottest time of the day is 3 p.m. Solar Time. In Indiana on Eastern Daylight Time this is around 5 p.m. - right in the middle of football practice, track, soccer, lacrosse, baseball, softball, etc. On Central Daylight Time temperatures would begin cooling by 4 p.m. rather than still heating up for another hour.

Isn't Indiana a border state? No. Guidelines in the Standard Time Act of 1918 divided Eastern from Central Time along the 82.5 longitude. This runs 25 miles east of Columbus, Ohio. The current border runs down through Indiana placing 12 counties on Central Time and 80 on Eastern Time. This time zone boundary divides 21 counties within Indiana and causes great confusion and difficulties for schools, families, and businesses within those counties.

Would restoring Indiana to the Central Time Zone adversely affect businesses? No. Eastern Time in Indiana is an obsolete designation. Modern communications have negated the advantage that prompted Indiana's move from Central to Eastern in 1961. Extensive research has been unable to identify any Indiana business that benefits from being on Eastern rather than Central time. Today, the advantage to business comes from observing daylight saving time and keeping Indiana's clocks in sync with the rest of the global economy.

Would restoring Indiana to the Central Time Zone benefit any businesses? Yes. California currently has the largest population of any state. The 3-hr. time difference between the West Coast and Indiana is a deterrent for doing business in Indiana. There is a growing trend for corporate headquarters to locate in the central US time zones: Boeing Aircraft from Seattle to Chicago, Michigan's largest bank from Detroit to Dallas, etc. Indiana isn't taking advantage of its natural Central Time location.

Don't a lot of people prefer later sunsets? Personal sunlight preferences are usually based on life style and there are as many Hoosiers who prefer morning sunlight as prefer evening sunlight. These preferences are split and negate each other. Indiana's time zone situation is a public policy decision that should be based on what provides the greatest health, safety, and welfare for its citizens. It's scary, dangerous, and cold being outside in winter on dark streets and roads. Indiana's 1.35 million school children don't have an option. They are the victims of an obsolete time situation.