

# Calendar Focus Groups - All Data

Current run (last updated Jan 15, 2019 7:29am)



## 64

Polls

## 154

Participants

## 39

Average responses

## Please indicate which demographic you are representing in the calendar focus group today?

| Response options           | Count     | Percentage |                  |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------|------------------|
| Business Leader            | 1         | 1%         | 129<br>Responses |
| Community Member           | 1         | 1%         |                  |
| D51 Support Staff Employee | 9         | 7%         |                  |
| D51 Teacher                | 34        | 26%        |                  |
| <b>Parent</b>              | <b>84</b> | <b>65%</b> |                  |

## In what region is your primary residence located?

| Response options      | Count     | Percentage |                  |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|------------------|
| Clifton               | 3         | 2%         | 123<br>Responses |
| Fruita                | 30        | 24%        |                  |
| <b>Grand Junction</b> | <b>68</b> | <b>55%</b> |                  |
| Orchard Mesa          | 7         | 6%         |                  |
| Palisade              | 4         | 3%         |                  |
| Other Area            | 11        | 9%         |                  |

## On a scale of 1 to 5; How well do you like the current 2018-19 calendar?

| Response options   | Count     | Percentage |                  |
|--|-----------|------------|------------------|
| 1 - I don't like this calendar at all.   | 37        | 30%        | 124<br>Responses |
| <b>2 - While there are a few things that I like about this calendar, it needs a lot of work.</b> | <b>50</b> | <b>40%</b> |                  |
| 3 - I don't love this calendar, but I don't hate it either.                                      | 23        | 19%        |                  |
| 4 - While there are a few things that should change, I like this calendar.                       | 13        | 10%        |                  |
| 5 - I think this is a great calendar.  | 1         | 1%         |                  |

## How would you recommend that the district calendar address the need to create weekly planning time for elementary teachers?

| Response options   | Count     | Percentage |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Early Release Wednesday  | 9         | 7%         |
| Early Release Friday   | 46        | 36%        |
| Combine hours and allow for one full day off each month  | 24        | 19%        |
| <b>Get rid of it and hire additional teachers to offer electives, creating opportunities for planning during the day</b> | <b>49</b> | <b>38%</b> |

**128**  
Responses

## Do you have a suggestion or different idea to create planning time for elementary teachers?

"Fridays off have worked well for teachers and families alike. Our teachers were able to plan on Friday mornings and were highly successful. They used their time wisely and really focus on the students during the additional four days."

"I would recommend that planning time be built into the daily or weekly schedule. While a 4-day week might sound like most communities that are doing this across the state chose this option because of economics. Time embedded in the day allows teachers to make adjustments based on the current learning of their students."

"If you combine the early release Wednesdays, it creates one extra day per month. If that day were a Monday, then we are at a 4-day week and teachers get PD, PLC, Work days and in-service each month giving them time to get read plans and other essential kid-first conversations completed."

"I think the calendar could reflect on making this more fair by extending the elementary teachers' day and to get paid for that amount of time (yes that is...)"

"Have a week of training, preassessing and other needs chunked together prior to school and periodically during the year."

### Responses

4 day week 4 day week. Friday's off.

Design a four day school week and allow for Monday's to be a professional learning and planning day.

Four day week with no school Fridays 4 day week...Fridays off

Have a week of training, preassessing and other needs chunked together prior to school and periodically during the year

I think the calendar could reflect on making this more fair by extending the elementary teachers' day and to get paid for that amount of time (yes that w

If you combine the early release Wednesdays, it creates one extra day per month. If that day was a Monday, then we are at a 4-day week and teachers get PD, PLC, Work days and in-service each month giving them time to get read plans and other essential kid-first conversations completed

I would recommend that planning time be built into the daily or weekly schedule. While a 4 day week might sound great most communities that are doing this across the state chose this option because of economics. Time embedded in the day allows teachers to make adjustments based on the current learning of their students.

Fridays off have worked well for teachers and families alike. Our teachers were able to plan on Friday mornings and were highly successful. They used their time wisely and could focus on the students fully on the additional four days.

**10**  
Responses

## What is most important to you when structuring a school calendar?

| Response options  | Count     | Percentage |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Longer summer break with full continuous weeks  | 21        | 16%        |
| <b>Several elongated breaks through the school year, keeping the length of the school year similar but eliminated fragmented weeks (fall break)</b> | <b>75</b> | <b>59%</b> |
| Leave the calendar as is  | 9         | 7%         |
| School should be year-round   | 23        | 18%        |

**128**  
Responses

## Do you have a suggestion or other recommendation for a calendar structure?

"Four day weeks with Fridays off kids are ready to learn on Mondays coming off the weekend. They are excited and there on Fridays. Also high school."

"Eliminating going 2 days after memorial day to end school year, mid august start good, add back fall break, 4 day week"

"Looking at student learning the 9 week on and 3 week off schedule has shown to be beneficial if learning opportunities are provided during the extended breaks - extension for those who would benefit, and intervention for those who need support."

"Be as consistent as possible. Summer Break, Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, Spring Break. No school after Memorial Day."

"May need or early release Friday. Elongated breaks during the year chunking the workdays. Teacher training and assessments consideration prior and after."

"FOUR DAY week for all schools, all levels. If a Monday must be missed for a holiday, hold school that Friday. Look NATIONWIDE for successful models."

Responses

- Four day weeks. Friday off. Start mid August. Graduation the third week of May.
- No school after Memorial day. High School Athletics start in Early August, so Summer should end around that time, as long as buildings have working A/C.
- Design a four day school week in order to improve cost savings, attendance, and student growth and achievement.
- 4 day school weeks, off on Friday. Same days across all levels.
- FOUR DAY week for all schools, all levels. If a Monday must be missed for a holiday, hold school that Friday. Look NATIONWIDE for successful models.
- 4day weeks or early release friday. Elongated breaks during the year chunking the workdays. Teacher training and assessments consideration prior and after
- Be as consistent as possible. Summer Break, Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, Spring Break. No school after Memorial Day.
- Looking at student learning the 9 week on and 3 week off schedule has shown to be beneficial if learning opportunities are provided during the extended breaks - extension for those who would benefit, and intervention for those who need support.
- Eliminate going 2 days after memorial day to end school year, mid august start good, add back fall break, 4 day week
- Four day weeks with Fridays off. Kids are ready to learn on Mondays coming off the weekend. They are scattered and jittery on Fridays. Also high school a

**10**  
Responses

## How would you recommend the District address non-student contact days in the district calendar?

| Response options  | Count | Percentage |
|---|-------|------------|
| Leave most non-student contact days on Mondays            | 10    | 8%         |
| Move non-student contact days to Fridays                  | 50    | 40%        |
| Combine non-student contact days to create full weeks off | 11    | 9%         |
| Consider a 4-day week calendar                            | 54    | 43%        |

**125**  
Responses

## Do you have a suggestion or different idea to address non-student contact days (including teacher work-days, inservice days, etc)?

"Make teacher workdays and in-service days on Fridays"

"We are already very close to a 4-day week. Consistency in the week to week schedule allows for parent planning, work productivity, and consistent educational services. Nutritional services and transportation will be highly impacted."

"Friday's off longer days"

"Friday off Teachers do all planning on Friday morning. As a selfish parent, I want my kids to have their teachers the most rested and ready to teach on a Monday morning"

"Community programs"

"Waivers for schools trade days for conferences and special calendars should still be considered take away early release"

"Non student contact days should be on Friday. This gives teachers time over the weekend to prepare for a great week."

Responses

- Provide extension and intervention times during these times.
- I do think that consistency in the days off is the best option whether it would be four day weeks or providing professional development on a regular basis. The community would be more prone to developing programs to meet the needs of the families.
- Non student contact days should be on Friday. This gives teachers time over the weekend to prepare for a great week.
- Waivers for schools trade days for conferences and special calendars should still be considered take away early release
- Community programs
- Fridays off. Teachers do all planning on Friday morning. As a selfish parent, I want my kids to have their teachers the most rested and ready to teach on a Monday morning !
- Friday's off. Longer days
- We are already very close to a 4-day week. Consistency in the week to week schedule allows for parent planning, work productivity, and consistent educational services. Nutritional services and transportation will be highly impacted...
- Make teacher workdays and in-service days on Fridays

**9**  
Responses

### Should the district consider earlier start times for elementary?

| Response options | Count | Percentage |                  |
|------------------|-------|------------|------------------|
| Yes              | 100   | 80%        | 125<br>Responses |
| No               | 25    | 20%        |                  |

### Should the district consider later start times for high school?

| Response options | Count | Percentage |                  |
|------------------|-------|------------|------------------|
| Yes              | 109   | 87%        | 125<br>Responses |
| No               | 16    | 13%        |                  |

### Knowing a change in start times for elementary and high school will require time and money, what would you recommend for changing start times?

Elementary start at 7:45. Middle and high school start at 8:30.

Save money with a four day week and put more money into busing and adjust start times in a graduated manner with secondary schools starting later.

It is frustrating that the need to provide transportation is more important than what research tells us is best for students. Hopefully, a method of providing more buses can be looked at.

4 day week for all would require longer days if could have 7:45-3:45 elementary 8:00-4:15.

I would prefer seeing money spent more effectively than on additional buses. So I'm okay with different start times.

Use the money saved by shortening the week to get the nutritional service people to drive more buses.

Yes for all if transportation could be available. Otherwise, 7:45 for elementary and high school, 8:30 for middle.

Responses

- 7:30am Elementary  
9:00am High School    Swap current start times
- No contact Friday and use some of the money for extra buses
- 8am for all if transportation could be available. Otherwise, 745 for elementary and high school, 815 for middle.
- Use the money saved by shortening the week to get the nutritional service people to drive more buses
- I would prefer seeing money spent more effectively than on additional buses. So I'm okay with different start times.
- 4 day week for all would require longer days if could have 7:45-3:45 elementary 8:00-4:15
- It is frustrating that the need to provide transportation is more important than what research tells us is best for students. Hopefully, a method of providing more buses can be looked at.
- Save money with a four day week and put more money into busing and adjust start times in a graduated manner with secondary schools starting later.
- Elementary start at 7:45. Middle and high school start at 8:30

10  
Responses

# Do you have a suggestion or different idea to create planning time for elementary teachers?

"I would like all elementary moving to a calendar like New Emerson or Caprock. Giving elementary teachers that time they need to meet with each other, their supports, families, and administration. These meetings can be done before and after school. A larger chunk of time is also useful for planning. 45 minutes is not enough time to give one class assignments and then plan."

"Elementary school doesn't begin until 8:30 and ends at 3:30, a typical 8:00-3:00 work day will allow for planning before and after school, equating to 45"

"Having time during specials, recess time in the morning or after school, substitute teacher to rotate on a weekly basis to allow teachers to plan, research, recharge."

"Having Fridays off throughout the week. This allows for consistency across the year and easier planning for parents. It could also increase student attendance because a lot of people take off early for workdays."

"I believe that the district should request a four-day student contact week, with the students coming Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Friday would be used for planning days and PD time. This would also help with the school aged students missing a primary day of school other than the spring weeks and other. We need to look at the districts that are this model and compare notes. Even in district, we have several schools that already follow this model and are performing significantly better than the other"

## Responses

40  
Responses

- I no longer have elementary school children and do not have an opinion on this at this time.
- One day off a month would be a second choice, early release Friday would be a third choice
- no
- A 4 day school day. Mondays off. This maximizes savings from buses and energy. Fridays off is an option but usually don't see the energy savings due to school sports games/activities on Fridays.
- If the district went to a 4 day school week, this could be done on a work day twice a month.
- If funding would permit, hire teachers for elective classes
- Create the ability to plan during the day just like middle and high schools do.
- Every Friday off for New Emerson so that teachers get additional planning time they need.
- Go to a four day week with students being off Fridays.
- Hire art and computer teachers in addition to pe and music to create the planning time.
- Doing planning on the non-contact day of a potential 4-day work week
- Early release Friday makes the week less disruptive. I would much prefer Friday to be their planning time.
- Four day school week. Fridays off.
- Switch all calendars to NE/DIA calendars BUT With Fridays with no students, not Mondays...too many things take kids and parents out of school on Fridays
- Start school later in the morning to allow teachers time to prepare each morning.
- By making longer days Monday through Thursday, and making Fridays a teacher work day, that would allow them to have the full flexibility to get their work done.
- The additional planning time could be offered on Friday. This would give teachers time to plan and have learning community time with their peers. Also, an extended time helps teachers plan more deeply and collaboratively.
- Hire additional teachers to offer planning time throughout the day for teachers.
- I don't have elementary school kids so I am not really the best person to ask. Early release Wednesday worked fine when my kids were young.
- If we go towards a 4 day week, there needs to be a full or half day of planning on the 5th day for teachers to plan (not just meetings). If it continues to be a 5 day week, more specials time to accommodate planning time including full time music, PE, and computers.
- If you moved it to a four day week (monday -thursday) then the teachers could use the whole day friday for planning and we wouldn't have the awkward and semi pointless half day wednesday.
- If hours are combined then I think strategic time management should be made available to teachers to make the most out of the day.
- Go to a 4 day a week calendar schedule. Dedicate part of that day to planning.
- Get rid of early release. End school 20-25 minutes earlier each day. (Like it used to be back in 2005-2006 school year). Shortens school day for kids and gives teachers 100-125 more planning minutes per week. Win-win.
- I like the idea of having a half day or even whole day off during the week, preferably Friday. This allows teachers a whole day to collaborate and work with others without taking time from instruction or having to hire more staff.
- Start school 1 hour later to allow planning
- I do think there is opportunity to add additional electives to give the teachers more time during the day to plan rather than have early release days. However if we are going to have an early release day I prefer it to be Friday rather than Wednesday.
- Regular work force has to use their own time or weekends. Taking one day would have less impact. Hire substitutes

## Responses

I had not thought of the idea of hiring additional teachers for electives, I don't know that this is really a financial option but I think this would be fantastic! If we could allow the kids to have even more educational opportunities through electives, once again offer things like music and art regularly for example and not take them out of school as much, this would solve two problems.

The previous calendar at Dual Immersion, in which teachers had planning time daily, plus time on Fridays, was ideal. The four-day school week worked very well, when they had Fridays to plan.

How did planning time get accounted for in the 1980/90's? Can we go back to that? There were no early release days or extra electives then. Maybe less inservice days and use those days for planning.

get rid of early release day and make school into a 4 day work week with fridays off for staff meetings. also start school earlier and get out earlier to give teachers time to plan.

Teachers should take the time when the kids are not in the classroom probably during specials, or after school the normal work day is 5:00

Early release is ideal because the teacher is already on site and he/she can wrap up the day and plan for the next week. Teachers also have specials where children are out of the room to plan for the next day or week. Half day or a full day off together to work with other professional s to develop a plan.

Four day student contact weeks would allow for teachers to plan (Mondays or Fridays) for the next week and respond to the previous week's progress of each student. This day allows for faculty meetings and district in-service.

I believe that the district should move to a four-day student contact week, with the students coming Mon-Thurs. Friday would be used for planning days and LC work. This would also help with high school aged students missing so many days of school when they leave for sporting events and other. We need to look at the districts that use this model and compare scores. Even in district, we have several schools that already follow this model and are performing exceptionally better than the other schools that have a five-day student contact week.

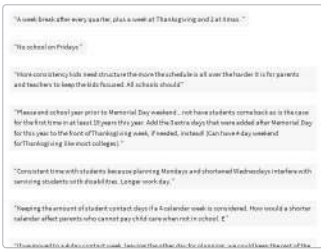
Having Fridays off like schools up valley. This allows for consistency across the year and easier planning for parents. It could also increase student attendance because a lot of people take off early for weekend trips.

Planning time during specials; more time in the morning or after school; substitute teacher to rotate on a weekly basis to allow teachers to plan; no early release every week

Elementary school doesn't begin until 8:50 and ends at 3:50, a typical 8:00-5:00 work day will allow for planning before and after school, equating to ov

I would like to see all elementary moving to a calendar like New Emerson or Cap rock. Giving elementary teachers the time they need to meet with each other, their supports, families, and administration. Those meetings usually occur before and after school. A larger chunk of time is also useful for planning. 45 minutes is not enough time to grade one classes assignments and then plan.

# Do you have a suggestion or other recommendation for a calendar structure?



## Responses

B Solid weeks off, longer spring break, bring back fall break

4 full days student contact week with day 5 being half or full day for teachers for planning and meetings.

4 day school week Tues-Fri, with staff working every other Monday.  D

Full week off for fall break. The fragmented weeks throughout October is ridiculous.

We should continue to have planned breaks and begin and end the school year around the same time, but we need to move to a four-day student contact week. This would eliminate having fragmented weeks anyway.

A fan of the four day week, and offering more fragmented breaks throughout the year. This will cut down on the long duration of no school during the summer.

Bring back the week off in October, shorten the Thanksgiving break to three days, less random Mondays off.

I think the calendar was great a couple years ago - fall break, winter break, 2 week spring break, summer. Also eliminating most of the short weeks (Monday off for this and that all year long)

Delta County has an interesting calendar. They start school later than we do and have a break every six weeks. This helps to create routine and structure for kids and eliminate fragmented weeks for things like in-service.

Even length of quarters. Not really necessary to end 2nd quarter before winter break. 4th quarter being two weeks longer than any other quarter is ridiculous.

School should start after labor day and end before Memorial day. A longer day can support this even on a 4 day week. If a choice between the 2, start before labor day and end before Memorial day. 3 days off at Thanksgiving is sufficient.

4 day weeks or lump days off together so they aren't sporadic. Monday's don't work well for days off. Friday's are better for family time.

Pair up days off into clusters for opportunity for longer weekends rather than multiple weeks of one or two days off each week. I would love to see longer summers if possible as well. With fewer days off during the year.

4 day contact weeks. Later start time for middle and high school. Move breaks to the end/ start of each quarter and eliminate breaks during the quarters.

As a parent, I want consistency from year to year- whatever you decide, stick to it. I prefer full weeks with longer breaks so as to not fragment instructional time during a week.

4 day week, with Fridays off. Workdays on Fridays. Start later in August. Bring back fall break.

Start school later in August. Release from school before Memorial day. However, definitely like the 4 day school week. Fridays off.

4 day school week, shorter summer but not so many fragmented weeks and or breaks. No half day/early release. 5th day is a teacher planning or work day or a professional development day.

Its always a pain to have school days after Memorial Day when they've taken that holiday off already and have to come back for two random days or so. Ending the school calendar year before Memorial Day should be considered. Also ending the school day earlier so that its not so late (and almost dark in the winter) when they get out of school.

Later morning start times, and not have high school and 8/9 school start at the same time to reduce traffic congestion.

The whole district would need to go year round, not just certain school. Challenge would be sports and aligning with the state; however with our current revolving calendar, many of those issues are already having to be addressed.

Fall Break (for families & teachers/staff)- After weeks of hard work, Fall Break is a much needed time off for kids and teachers. Plus, it's a wonderful time to travel around Colorado and neighboring states. To many, Fall Break is right up there with Spring Break in terms of a break from teaching and learning.

NE/DIA schedules with Friday no kids. Longer days to accommodate the no school. The calendar with fall break and two weeks at spring break was good too.

40 Responses

## Responses

Why a week off at Thanksgiving. Why not make Thanksgiving class time. I moved here from a top rated district where lots of families traveled internationally, and there was always school during that week M,T, W was a half day, with the understanding that it was a good time to take your kids out of school if you really wanted to leave town, but there was meaningful work going on and no testing if you were staying in town.

We added three student contact days to this year's calendar. Those days were added to the end of the school year, after Memorial Day. I don't see that students will be in a mindset to learn anything after a three-day weekend at the end of the school year.

Go to a four day week so that high school students playing sports aren't missing school and students being taught by substitutes.

There should be no school on federal Holidays. Calendar should be year round, go to school for a quarter, then 2 or 3 weeks off. A shorter summer break and a longer Holiday break.

I think ideally it would be great for kids to go to school in Mesa County longer, if not year round. There are many studies if I understand correctly that talk about the backsliding that kids do over the summer when out of school. Perhaps a month long summer with some week long breaks throughout the school year would be best. I like the Fall break, week of Thanksgiving, Xmas/New Years, Spring Breaks.

Let's try something different. We seem to stick to the traditional calendar. Parents, staff, and teachers like the fall break. Earlier start times for elementary and four day week for elementary. Monday-Friday. No contact with students on Friday. Planning, professional learning, inservice on Friday.

(1/3) Keep New Emerson as 4 day week as it's beneficial for both students and teachers, but move back to Friday off! New emrson relies heavily on parent

Four-day contact weeks. Week-long breaks at quarters (spring break at end of 3rd, not into 4th). Just two days off for Thanksgiving. Longer school year - less time off for summer.

If we moved to a 4 day contact week, leaving the other day for planning, we could keep the rest of the calendar very consistent. No need for fragmented weeks and changing schedules. Families would only need to find child care Monday's (or fridays) and during the summer. Not on random days and in afternoons.

Keeping the amount of student contact days if a 4 calendar week is considered. How would a shorter calendar affect parents who cannot pay child care when not in school.  
E

Consistent time with students because planning Mondays and shortened Wednesdays interfere with servicing students with disabilities. Longer work day.

Please end school year prior to Memorial Day weekend...not have students come back as is the case for the first time in at least 15 years this year. Add the 3 extra days that were added after Memorial Day for this year to the front of Thanksgiving week, if needed, instead! (Can have 4 day weekend for Thanksgiving like most colleges).

More consistency kids need structure the more the schedule is all over the harder it is for parents and teachers to keep the kids focused. All schools should

No school on Fridays

A week break after every quarter, plus a week at Thanksgiving and 2 at Xmas.



# Do you have a suggestion or different idea to address non-student contact days (including teacher work-days, inservice days, etc)?



"How to 4 day week calendar with Fridays off. It will allow for consistency throughout the year near planning and avoid attendance. Also off days for weekend sports and family trips. This will allow for better family things that we can't have on the week of school appointments and things."

"Does a work day need to be an entire day? 4 day school week."

"Spread out non-student contact days so that it does not impact therapy services to students, adjust students' family work schedules. Students with disabilities need more consistency during a 4 day school day to have skills to access the general education curriculum."

"Having a consistent need of planning makes responding to student needs difficult in a 4 day school week. Non-contact days should be regular in order to best serve students."

"NOT a 4 day week. NOT in the best interest of our community. If you look at other school districts in Colorado who have done this, the parents did not want to give up. You do not want to give up school time to help/bring things to working parents, not parent but both, parents more likely to help 4 day week but also."

Responses

- 4 day weeks
- 4 day week with Fridays off (not Monday's)
- Less teacher workdays and in service days, teachers would rather teach.
- making it a four day week would allow them fridays to get this accomplished
- A 4 day school week would be great, but also a full week for Fall break would be awesome
- Four day week with students off on Friday
- Move them to Friday's when possible.
- Move to a four day week making Friday the day off. In the event a holiday falls on Monday, make the prior Friday a school day.
- Teachers need planning weekly, if we go to 4 day week with Fridays for collaboration and planning it would support that need.
- 4 day student weeks would allow for all the other "stuff" to happen on the 5th day and not interrupt students and their parents with a random scheduled like we have this year.
- A 4 day week with in-service and non-contact days on Fridays.
- Consider a 4 day school week so that the students have a consistent school week. This way their schedule is not constantly changing.
- If its not feasible with staff to batch work days because a quarterly structure would be better, then make it a Friday and not a Monday off. This helps families who are already going to sports and other traveling events. Monday is not helpful since you usually have to travel on a Friday.
- 4 day school week. However, not at the expense of shortening summer break.
- Spread them throughout the week. Taking Monday and moving it to Friday doesn't really address the issue. Four day week with Friday off.
- Please make sure you have non-contact Mondays coincide with Federal Holidays. My kids had school on Columbus Day and then have the following 3 Mondays off!
- 4 day weeks with every Friday off (for students). Teachers plan on Fridays.
- Spreading out the work days appears to be a win for both students and teachers. Fridays is nice for many, not all, working parents may have more flexibility on Fridays but Monday's and early release Wednesday.
- The district has asked for this kind of input before and completely ignores what the majority has suggested. We should be able to find a way to make a 4 day week work. There is no need to reinvent the wheel...New Emerson has it figured out.
- 4 day school week gives teachers 1 day per week to address professional development, planning needs and adjust plans. Allows 1 day for parent-teacher conferences when they come around.
- 4 day work week with friday off for staff meetings, do not close for teacher conferences.
- Integrate some into existing breaks such as Thanksgiving week, spring break, Christmas break.
- 4 day week makes for more consistency for the students. If that is not possible than Friday non-contact days are more useful from a family standpoint than mondays. Especially with early-out Wednesday I do not like that we have Mondays off and then only go a full day Tuesday before having an early-out day.
- Again, limiting the amount of time kids spend out of school while still allowing the teachers the time to plan adequately so if it is not adequate to plan on a quarterly basis and things are changing more frequently in the classroom, then make the days off Fridays, not make every week 4 days long.
- There needs to be a designated work day at the end of every quarter so teachers can enter grades and at least get a loose plan in place for the next couple weeks. Having a 4-day week with Friday's off would help with in-service days
- Teacher planning and work days need to be spread out to allow teachers to be responsive to student needs, not all lumped together. Days together versus an hour here and there are not helpful for teachers to plan with other grade levels.

39  
Responses

## Responses

Please keep a work day at the end of each quarter. Lumping days into one week is not an effective way for teachers to plan or use their time. A four day week is ideal so all non-student contact days can be the same day of the week every week.

Many teachers feel inservice days are not effective and would be much better spent with students. Reduce the number of inservice days and increase contact days.

Don't penalize those who are parents and also work for the district. If our own children are off for Fall Break, Thanksgiving Break, Spring Break, etc. we want to be off too. As for non-contact days, make it a 4-day contact day week and 1-day work day/in-service/planning etc.

Less days for conferences, particularly for secondary schools.

the 4 day week is easier for families to plan for care for their kids and consistency is important. days are wasted having kids try to get back into a routine after every break. Also kids are off for sports on Fridays and this would eliminate missing class. also a day in the week to plan dr dentist appts makes for less school missed.

I like having them all consistently on the same day of the week. That is helpful of scheduling and routine with kids. I don't have a preference of days (just kidding I totally think Monday or Friday would be great) as long as they are consistent.

We should address them by going to a 4-day work week. Having all of my planning time (as a teacher) in one chunk of days in a row does not allow me to address the needs of my students. Plan days need to be consistent, and spread out in order for students to make the most growth. Fridays are necessary because students are already missing these days unanimously.

If a 4 day week was considered than teachers would not need work days or inservice days, but students should not have to go longer days, I think the calendar contact days should be kept as are. The extra days added to the calendar was one of the points presented to voters for the Bond

NOT a four day week. NOT in the best interest of our community. If you look at other school districts in Colorado who have done this, the juvenile delinquency rate goes up. You do not want to give such idle time to kids!! And rough for working parents...not present for kids...means more trouble for kids. 4 day week=a bad idea.

Having a combined week of planning makes responding to student needs difficult in real time. Non-contact days should be regular in order to best serve students.

Spread out non-student contact days so that it does not impact therapy services to students; adjust students' family work schedules. Students with disabilities need more consistency during a 5 day school day to learn skills to access the general education curriculum.

Does a work day need to be an entire day? 4 day school week.

Move to 4 day week calendar with Fridays off. It will allow for consistency throughout the year, easier planning and increaE attendance. A lot of kids miss Fridays for weekend sports and family trips. This will also allow for time for family things that we won't have to pull them out of school for appointments and things.

# If the District pursues a change in start times for elementary and high school, it will require time and money, what would you recommend for changing start times?



"8:35 start time for all schools. That would mean all someone other than bus driver is putting all students on the same bus."

"Switch the start times for elementary and secondary to get all kids on 10:00 for a neighborhood bus on the same bus and have start times be earlier."

"Switch elementary and high school start times. Young kids are up earlier. Teenagers need more sleep. 10:00 is not a day used for that reason. Jobs could be late go later which just cause a rush for high school sports and homework. Not a day used! That would be a bad idea."

"Keep elementary start times at 8:30."

"This not a huge priority for me if it costs more money than our current system. I think our money would be better spent on other areas than busing. The secondary kids that participate in after school activities need to get home too late, having them get out later would push these activities even later."

"If all schools, elementary and secondary, had the same start and ending times. This would add consistency and routes for the district, families, and the community."

## Responses

7:45 for elementary 8:45 middle and high school Swap the start and end times.

Flip elementary and high school start times.

Find a way to get the money needed to have the same start and end times for all students.

Switch Elementary and secondary start times.

start times should be the same...730am start time for all

Elementary 745am. High school 830am.

8 or 8:15 for middle and high school. The day would run later, but still leaves enough time for after school activities and homework

Reverse the start times if funding is an issue. Have elementary start first (8am) then middle then high. Release dates to follow accordingly.

Elementary start at 8:15, Secondary school start at 8 am

Change middle and high school start times to after 8am. If budget is an issue, switch elementary and secondary schedules.

Busing all students K-High School in a given area at the same time. Decrease the number of routes that driver's drive a day.

Elementary stay the same, Middle and High School 30 min later.

Switching to a four day week would eliminate one day of transportation and save money.

Later start times for middle school and high school.

Either have all schools start at the same time or flip current start times. Younger kids are wired to start their days earlier, while adolescents need more sleep and would benefit from a later start time.

Current start times should not be changed. The money needed to pay for school buses should be better allocated to schools that are falling apart and towards resources for teachers.

8:00 or 8:15 start for middle and high schools.

Switching HS to Elementary start time and Elementary to HS

Start at 8:50 for all schools and combine more kids on buses maybe not k-12 on the same bus, but the buses have so much room not being used maybe extend the

Start times need to remain the same for secondary schools. Sports practices and extracurriculars will be bumped later if start times are later- making them home later in the day. Elementary school start times should be bumped earlier.

Starting cloaverto same time with MS and HS only a little earlier if needed. Some families rely on older kids to be home to watch younger kids so they may need to get home first

Preferable is everyone start at the same time. Second choice is elementary earlier and secondary later. This fits with the current studies of natural sleep habits/functionality for these age groups. For the buses, are they actually full for both trips? How many additional buses would actually be needed?

Secondary schools at 8:00/8:15 and Elementary at 8.

I think elementary kids should start earlier, perhaps 7:30 or 8 and middle and high school start at 8:30. Younger kids typically are up and ready to go at the crack of dawn whereas it is very common for teens to want to or need to sleep in as part of their natural circadian rhythms.

8:00 for elementary. Many children are up several hours before school starts now.

extend the bus routes to cover more area so parents can have that option, because these times are swayed by what time parents have to be at work and can get their kids to school.

Have high school, middle school, and elementary all start at the same time. 8am maybe?

35 Responses

## Responses

Our \$ resources would be better off if allocated to other needs.

If all schools, elementary and secondary, had the same start and ending times. This would add consistency and routine for the district, families, and the community.

This not a huge priority for me if it costs more money than our current system. I think our money would be better spent in other areas than busing. Plus secondary kids that participate in after school activities already get home too late, having them get out later would push those activities even later.

Keep elementary start time at 8:50.

switch elementary and high school start times. Young kids are up earlier. Teenagers need more sleep. Do NOT recommend a 4 day week for that reason....days would have to go later, which just doesn't work for high school sports and homework! NO 4-day week!! That Would be a bad mess.

Switch the start times for elementary and secondary or put all kids (K-12) for a neighborhood/area on the same bus and have start times be similar.

8:15 start time for all schools. Must monitor buses with someone other than bus driver is putting all age students on the same bus.

# Are there any other items left on your "list" that you did not get to share?

39  
Responses

"Consider socioeconomic status, single-parent families and families who struggle to make ends meet, etc., cannot connect these types of focus group meetings to make their voices heard."

"YES. Thank you for the call on 1/15/19. I would like to see a second week before Father's Day instead of 30 days as has changed in later times. I would like to see a 4-day school year instead of 30 days. I would like to see a 4-day school year. Please add days another week. (Thanking you for the call.)"

"My town was a teacher and they stayed after the kids left for the day for their planning time. It was part of their regular day. School day was 7 days a week from 8:00-3:00 for elementary and 8:00-3:00 for high school. This was for the bus travel between schools. My son just left a 4-day district with the bus from 8:00-4:00. Friday off. They saved bus costs on transportation by 1 day they pay more. They did not save money on the bus to the community with the kids on Friday for games. The staff had their planning, in-service, etc. days on Friday. This is needed in some districts in school as doctor and other appointments were scheduled on Friday."

"I do not support a 4-day school week. I do not think it is good for the community at any socioeconomic level."

"I don't think a fall break is necessary when there is a Thanksgiving break or close to November end."

Responses

- 8:20 start time for all. Fall Break! End the school year by Memorial Day!
- I believe they should extend the school year and allow for an October break.
- Whatever we come up with - please make it last more than one or two years.
- If there will be days off during the year for teacher planning, it would be nice to have them the same as national holidays so parents may have these off from work, as well.
- Change early-release day to Friday! Christmas break does not need to be 2 1/2 weeks long! Start a few days before Christmas and have kids go back earlier--they don't need to be off until January 8.
- Don't add extra days after Memorial Day. That is free babysitting and many families won't come back on those days. Give me those extra days at the beginning of the year in August to build my classroom community and relationships so I can begin instruction sooner.
- more kids should be allowed to ride the bus 2 miles is too far and 3 miles is way too far to walk especially in the dark. If this was an option for more parents than start times for class could be later cause parents could get their children to bus and go to work.
- Stop considering JUCO and CMU's calendar when it comes to our calendar.
- My kids spent a few years in schools in Eagle county. Middle started at 8:30. Wednesdays were late start day and started at 9:30. High school started at 8:15. They made it work with after school activities and homework, and the kids were well rested.
- More busses to increase children's safety and reduce traffic. Having children walk over two miles in the dark on streets with no sidewalks is not safe.
- Less inservice days for MS.
- Have we done any research on schools that have a 4-day work week already in place? What are their demographics compared to our valley? What are their test scores compared to ours? What day works better to have a teacher plan day? Is their actually an increase in students causing trouble on their day off? I think that research needs to be done on districts outside of our own before any decisions are made.
- End 2nd quarter after winter break. Even up those quarters!
- End before Memorial day.
- Better alignment of holidays and school days off. For example, kids went to school on Columbus Day but then have the next 3 Monday's in a row off. This decreases family time and doesn't work for working parents with those holidays off
- I feel like this is a complex issue that does not have an easy fix. Most importantly, I think consistency is key. Lets decide on something and STICK TO IT. Changes from year to year cause frustration and confusion. I've had kids in the D51 system for 8 years and not one year has been the same. Parents and students want to know what to expect- whatever decision is made. A 4 day week would be great, but not necessarily the best move for students and staff.
- Adding 3 days after Memorial Day seemed like a real waste. The kids will be checked out, finals will be over. I am concerned there will be very little educational value. I suggest adding the 3 days at the beginning of the school year.
- (1/2) Please switch us back to fridays off. Start earlier, end later, whatever we need to make that happen. Either end before memorial day or go at least a week
- (2/2) after, not just 2 days.
- Fall break at the end of first quarter is much needed. Shorten Thanksgiving break to just 2 days. End second quarter before Christmas break.
- Elementary start time is fine, those kids don't have activities after school to keep them up late. Starting the middle and high school later would only result in them staying up later at night to compensate so it wouldn't be doing them any good because their night activities would just get pushed back later. It seems there are more complex issues to the 4 day week than I realized initially. It maybe isn't such a good idea with low paid school employees and the free time the kids would have. Consider half day friday instead of half day wednesday to combat this issue.
- please start school earlier the gap between middle and elementary is over an hour. match the times. go to school 730 to 3 for all schools. get rid of early release. start 4 day weeks with fri off. longer summer. no fall break.850 is too late for school and costs more in daycare. please start time earlier to match wor schedules.
- It should not be about parents schedules and what works best if we all have the calendar in advance we can accommodate. It really needs to be about the best

## Responses

From a teacher perspective in-services are a waste of time that are poorly organized by district personnel.

interest of the kids and making the schedules make it best for there learning.

Fall break and end before Memorial Day!

i always feel like days leading up to a break or coming back from a break are not productive for kids or teachers.

Therapy specialists need to spend time with students based on the minutes on their IEPs. Current Teacher Planning Days on Mondays and Shortened Wednesdays don't allow therapists the time needed to work more effectively so that students with disabilities can begin to access the general education curriculum.

If a 4 day week calendar was considered with extended hours rather than adding days to the Calendar, students would be going to school in the dark and getting home in the dark during winter. In an environment where young rural adults already suffer from isolation and low Economic Opportunities the shorter week could exacerbate their problems.

Later start - after 8 am for secondary schools. I went to high school that started at 9, had optional hours at 7:20, and still got out at 3:15. Athletes' PE at the end of the day starts practice during the school day so that leaving for games minimizes missed seat time. Practices in the morning, especially with a later start in the day gets kids home in the evening. More school weeks in the year, four-day contact - summer break is too long, kids lose math and reading skills.

Later start for secondary schools.  
Less work days/ in service days that take away from contact days. Work can be done before and after school.

If you're giving days off on so many weeks, include a Friday or Monday next to Easter. If keeping early outs, switch them to Friday. End school year by memorial day. 4 day school weeks is a good thing to try. LOTS of education happens outside of school. Taking more time for school is not the right answer. More time for families and extra curricular activities will be more helpful to communities.

Elementary teachers have more and more added to their plates each year, mandated items that they must do. Our calendar needs to allow the time for elementary teachers to complete these tasks during the work day, not before and after contract hours. There will be impacts to the community to make this happen. If there are negative impacts to the community, then we need to work together to go to the state and national level to adjust the mandates.

I dont' think a fall break is necessary when there is a thanksgiving break so close in November and then Winter break. Would rather see better planning time for teachers at the appropriate times for them if there could be later start times.

I do not support a 4 day school week. I do not think it is good for the community at any socioeconomic level.

My mom was a teacher and they stayed after the kids left for the day for their planning time. It was part of their negotiated day. School day was 5 days a week from 8:00 - 3:30 for elementary and 8:30 - 3:15 for high school. This was for the bus travel between schools. My son just left a 4 day district with the day from 8:00 - 4:00. Fridays off. They saved a bunch of funds on transportation by 1 less day per week. They did not save energy costs due to the community still using the schools on Fridays for games. The staff had their planning, in-service, etc. days on Fridays. This resulted in more students in school as doctor and other appointments were scheduled on Fridays.

YES. Thank you! Graduation dates. PLEASE in 2020 return to second week (after Mother's Day) instead of 3rd week as has changed to later time this year. PLEASE!! I realize you put graduation later for the first time, due to adding days after Memorial Day. Please add days another way/time (Thanksgiving week perhaps).

Consider socioeconomic status; single-parent families and families who struggle to make ends meet, etc. cannot come to these types of focus group meetings to make their voices heard.

# Do you have a suggestion or different idea to create planning time for elementary teachers?

"Implement a four day week in which teachers have the time on Fridays to team and individually plan the bulk of their time. At the same time, reduce workload on the non-teaching items such as different plans, data entry, paperwork, duplicative assessments, etc."

"No additional ideas"

"1/2 day kinder would not allow for more planning time due to the limited contact time Full day! but that will create a need for additional space, teachers, and money"

"School day a little longer to allow for more planning time at the end of each day or half day off at the end of the week to accommodate for planning time"

"The hiring of additional teachers for electives seems like a very reasonable and productive option. Additional time prior to start of school or after school"

"Four day week but with very few meetings on the non-contact days. Limit the days where teachers have to be present in a meeting instead of working in their classrooms. Allow for sub days during assessment windows so teachers can plan during their planning time and not trying to create sub plans or test"

## Responses

yes Yes Add extra specials

13 Responses

Could elementary school day run from 8 am until 4 pm with teachers "planning" from 4-5 each day?

teachers start/end day before/after students, bring specials back, add more specials,

The most effective planning time is with blocks of dedicated time as opposed to gaps of time sprinkled throughout the day

Have the teachers start an hour before school and stay an hour later..that is 2 hours extra per day.

A four day week but with very few meetings on the non- contact days. Limit the days where teachers have to be present in a meeting instead of working in their classrooms. Allow for sub days during assessment windows so teachers can plan during their planning time and not trying to create sub plans or test.

The hiring of additional teachers for electives seems like a very reasonable and productive option. Additional time prior to start of school or after school

School day a little longer to allow for more planning time at the end of each day or half day off at the end of the week to accommodate for planning time

1/2 day kinder would not allow for more planning time due to the limited contact time. Full day! but that will create a need for addition space, teachers, and money

No additional ideas

Implement a four day week in which teachers have the time on Fridays to team and individually plan the bulk of the time. At the same time, reduce workload on the non-teaching items such as different plans, data entry, paperwork, duplicative assessments, etc.

## Do you have a suggestion or other recommendation for a calendar structure?

13  
Responses

"The calendar should maintain as much consistency as possible for all stakeholders. I previously worked in a district that went to a four day week. In doing so, the district committed to families that students would go to school M-Th each and every week. This way families could plan and the community could put programs in place for families. There were no longer random days that families had to find childcare for. The move, while difficult at first, created a lot of trust and stability for families. It worked well for school staff because planning was consistent and it gave administration an option to provide compensation time for teachers after evening parent teacher conferences."

"Go back to traditional school calendar... school out in June, start in September after Labor Day... school start times are great... have early release on fr"

"Start mid August, and the end of May, include Fall break, all schools start at same time (middle/high start later) maybe an 8-4 day, can't all start at the same time at least start middle/high closer to 8:30, don't start elementary too early because it is dark for them to go to bus stop, my perfect schedule would be unified start time and 4 day week"

"I'd start time K-12 - look at feasibility of 4 day week -"

"In general, focus on what's best for students before taking in to account all of the other stakeholders. Keep it simple and make it predictable for fami"

### Responses

4 day week

I would rather start earlier in the month of August or July and end before Memorial Day. I like a 4 day week for students at the elementary level.

1. A one size fits all approach does not work well for specialized programs like DIA. Our previous schedule worked well for staff, students and families. Our data clearly shows that as well.

Starting earlier in the year. Later start time for older kids.

Ending before memorial day. 4 day school week with Fridays off

Start month and End month are fine except for the 2 days after memorial day. Those two days seem pointless. I would rather go another week or two and start later in August if that is the case. I also think we don't need so many days after New Years. I think we could cut out some of these days and end at Memorial day.

Later start time for high school. Have workdays or short breaks between quarters. Allow schools or levels determine the conference dates.

Parent teacher conferences during the evening to make it easier for parents to attend. Later start times for middle and high school should be a priority. Start a week or 2 later, go a week or 2 later into the spring.

In general, focus on what's best for students before taking in to account all of the other stakeholders. Keep it simple and make it predictable for fami

Unified start time K-12 - look at feasibility of 4 day week -

Start mid August, end the end of May, include Fall break, all schools start at same time (middle/high start later) maybe an 8-4 day, can't all start at the same time at least start middle/high closer to 8:30, don't start elementary too early because it is dark for them to go to bus stop, my perfect schedule would be unified start time and 4 day week

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# Do you have a suggestion or different idea to address non-student contact days (including teacher work-days, inservice days, etc)?

"Make the days consistent. End of the month is a good idea."

"I like the idea of non contact days at the end of a week. It doesn't interfere as much with the learning that goes on at the beginning of a week or in the middle of a week. It also allows teachers to recharge and get ready to teach again at the beginning of a new week (parent teacher conferences) instead of coming back the next morning and teaching."

"To minimize the fragmented weeks by combining multiple non-contact days and dig them less frequently."

"Regarding conferences. Allow schools to use waivers to do more evening conferences, and then compensate teachers for their hours on Fridays."

"Non contact days on Fridays are better for families."

"consistent day off, preferably a 4 day week, but if not a 4 day week be consistent with day of the week and do it once a schedule. Possibly the last weekend of every month is a 4 day weekend?"

"Think the week is a good option to have student contact better when consistent. Teachers could use"

## Responses

- I like how it is consistent this year and they all fall on the same day of the week.
- Have more non-contact days at the end of each quarter. Keep the full week off in November.
- The 4 day week is a good option to keep student contact/instruction consistent. Teachers could use Fridays for planning/in-service
- consistent day off, preferably a 4 day week, but if not a 4 day week be consistent with day of the week and do it on a schedule. Possibly the last weekend of every month is a 4 day weekend
- Non contact days on Fridays are better for families
- Regarding conferences. Allow schools to use waivers to do more evening conferences and then compensate teachers for their hours on Fridays.
- Try to minimize the fragmented weeks by combining multiple non-contact days having them less frequently.
- I like the idea of non contact days at the end of a week. It doesn't interfere as much with the learning that goes on at the beginning of a week or in the middle of a week. It also allows teachers to recharge and get ready to teach again at the beginning of a new week (parent teacher conferences) instead of coming back the next morning and teaching.
- Make the days consistent. End of the month is a good idea.

9 Responses

# Knowing a change in start times for elementary and high school will require time and money, what would you recommend for changing start times?

"Shortened required walking distance from school for elementary kids to accommodate earlier start time."

"4 day week preferably at the end of the week. Could having Fridays off save money when it comes to substitutes and have that money help offset the cost of start times."

"8:00 - 9:00 for secondary at least. Keep a 5 day week for high schools, go to a 4 day week for elementary."

"Do what's best for student learning. Develop sliding scale to pay for busing similar to free and reduced lunch. Don't let transportation or athletics "take"

"Swap start times for elementary and secondary"

"do the "pay to ride" like is in place for those that are in walking boundaries now. \$10/month is not a big expense. If we have a 4 day week there is budget savings that could be spent for unified start time. Encourage neighborhood carpooling. There is so much data to support a later start time for MS/HS that we can overcome any expense for busing"

## Responses

- Leaving start times alone 4 day week could possibly offset
- Swap current elementary and middle/high school start times.
- do the "pay to ride" like is in place for those that are in walking boundaries now. \$10/month is not a big expense. If we have a 4 day week there is budget savings that could be spent for unified start time. Encourage neighborhood carpooling. There is so much data to support a later start time for MS/HS that we can overcome any expense for busing
- Swap start times for elementary and secondary
- Do what's best for student learning. Develop sliding scale to pay for busing similar to free and reduced lunch. Don't let transportation or athletics "take"
- 8:00 - 9:00 for secondary at least. Keep a 5 day week for high schools, go to a 4 day week for elementary.
- 4 day a week preferably at the end of the week. Could having Fridays off save money when it comes to Substitutes and have that money help offset the cost of start times.
- Shortened required walking distance from school for elementary kids to accommodate earlier start time.

9 Responses

### Are there any other items left on your "list" that you did not get to share?

"I don't like so many Mondays off. I heard the argument was that we have so many off already so they added all the non contact days to Monday. Only 4 Holidays are on Mondays specifically. We don't need so many days off after New Years. We could add those days to other places in the calendar like getting out before memorial day."

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#### Responses

- BOE should decide how many contact days our students need before negotiating with MVEA. Don't settle for minimum
- I'm concerned with an earlier start time for elementary due to darkness in the winter months. I fear for the littles walking to bus stops in the dark/dusk time. I'd hate for them to start before 8:15.
- Additional contact / instructional days. Shorter Christmas break. Align with CMU calendar.
- Would like to see more input and accommodation to individual schools (especially DIA and new emerson) to address their unique student population and needs.
- Work out holidays for non-contact days even if the teachers are working there is less disruption for families. If we have a calendar that is set for years ahead charter schools could work around us.
- I don't like so many Mondays off. I heard the argument was that we have so many off already so they added all the non contact days to Monday. Only 4 Holidays are on Mondays specifically. We don't need so many days off after New Years. We could add those days to other places in the calendar like getting out before memorial day.

6 Responses

### Do you have a suggestion or different idea to create planning time for elementary teachers?

"I don't like so many Mondays off. I heard the argument was that we have so many off already so they added all the non contact days to Monday. Only 4 Holidays are on Mondays specifically. We don't need so many days off after New Years. We could add those days to other places in the calendar like getting out before memorial day."

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#### Responses

- Ask them Use the non-contact day of a 4 day week
- teachers could do their planning after school and the school hours adjusted such that there is time after school for that
- Use marijuana taxes to hire more teachers, more special ed, more music and art, AND have no early release, but for the occasional Friday.
- Longer days with more elective time offered. Would also strongly recommend a 4 day week with Fridays off so they have 1 full day a week to plan.
- I no longer have any students in elementary but having three kids in elementary was challenging when a parent(s) work out of the home to obtain childcare. In addition it when they did attend on Wednesday it was all "specials"
- At building level have more than enough resources so this is not viewed as burden. Embrace culture that improves view of planning time
- Give Elementary teachers a survey asking them what schedule would be of most benefit to them.
- Support schools in creating their own master schedule that provides that planning time.
- stay an extra 45 minutes one day every other week after school
- More elective time. Art in all K-5 grades, Spanish, in addition to PE etc
- Early release would be more effective and less difficult for parents if it took place on Friday.
- Teachers need to have the entire 2 hours of early release to plan and prep alone in their classroom. They can meet as a grade level team once a month on
- 4 day week w/fridays off; pay teachers for planning hours outside of normal operating days; alternate planning time and expand ratios for like lessons; eliminate administrative positions and give each teacher team an assistant
- Why is so much planning time needed? Does the curriculum have to change every year? If so, I suggest longer electives each day and keep early release.
- If the money can be found, offering more electives and creating a planning time would be great
- Add art as a special. Push planning to Friday as necessary. Regardless, get teacher input.

17 Responses

## Do you have a suggestion or other recommendation for a calendar structure?

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Responses

"Stretched out or year-round, less fragmented, kids need the Fall break. More consistent. Adding days to the end of the year doesn't help the students with AP testing. Several two week breaks maybe and shorter summer. They lose too much information and teachers end up re-teaching a lot of information."

"No start before mid-August. Fall break for 1 week. Only Wed-Fri off for Thanksgiving. Too much time off in Nov and Dec. Could go past Memorial Day. Start times for secondary 8am at earliest. 1 day week, otherwise days too long for younger kiddos. Increase Wed to full day."

"I think we should explore a year-round calendar. Teacher work days on Monday/Fri days would be helpful."

"Survey the parents and teachers for the individual schools for validation of major changes to established schedules; for example, don't ask us to change from Monday-Thursday to Tuesday-Friday on short notice."

"Start mid august. 1 week fall break. 3 days for thanksgiving. 2 weeks winter break. 1 week spring break. end early june. limit the number of in service days or spread them out to one a quarter. 1 day for conferences not 2."

### Responses

Follow seasons with two weeks off in between, a year round solution

Year round school is ideal but if a traditional calendar is kept, summer should start mid June and end after Labor Day.

End the school year through first week of June.

I would be interested in what a 4 day school week District wide would look like.

Shorter summer break, end before Memorial Day and include a Fall Break.

Start before Labor Day; full week at Thanksgiving; same spring break and winter break as CMU.

A four-day week would be beneficial. Middle and high school begin at 7:45 or 8:00 am.

end before Memorial Day, starting in August is fine, a short fall break, a spring break, no early release, kinders go every Wednesday

Having most teacher work days on Mondays has worked well for my family. That idea could potentially be expanded to include having all Mondays off and continuing on with a four day week, eliminating the need for early release.

Four day week; let teachers decide when to plan; less structure, more empowerment

I believe the quarters need to be balanced in regards to the high school kids. Add three days after Labor Day this year was a waste of tax payers money! Numerous trips and graduations are planned with the idea that school would be dismissed for the year as in the past and than we are hit with we used the money to add three days! Why? The quarters are not balanced for the high school kids and will miss out on a variety of educational time because of testing in 4 quarter.

start mid august. 1 week fall break. 3 days for thanksgiving. 2 weeks winter break. 1 week spring break. end early june. limit the number of in service days or spread them out to one a quarter. 1 day for conferences not 2

Survey the parents and teachers for the individual schools for validation of major changes to established schedules; for example, don't ask us to change from Monday - Thursday to Tuesday-Friday on short notice

I think we should explore a year-round calendar. Teacher work days on Monday holidays would be helpful.

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Stretched out or year-round, less fragmented, kids need the Fall break. More consistent. Adding days to the end as was done this year doesn't help hs students with AP testing. Several two week breaks maybe and shorter summer. They lose too much information and teachers end up re-teaching a lot of information.

## Do you have a suggestion or different idea to address non-student contact days (including teacher work-days, inservice days, etc)?

"Concentrate non contact days around breaks. Make sure the full 8 hours is used."

"Have them on Friday and schedule work and planning on same day, like the idea of using the rest of Thanksgiving week, consistency too"

"combine work days with inservice days. our teacher work days are for grades. teachers are usually done by 10."

"Consistent days off that follow a set pattern"

"Four day week with Fridays off would create a consistent calendar that business, parents, care groups, and employers can rely on. Special accommodations for those that leverage school for care while at work can be made. It's possible that money saved in a 4-day model could be leveraged to help those that cannot make a 4-day schedule work. Consider using Friday to teach "skilled" positions like plumbing, carpentry, electrical, etc."

"Move to a 4 day week, Monday - Thursday, develop focused education 'camps' for Friday and school break periods"

### Responses

Moving the non-contact day from Monday to Friday does not change the huge fragmented week problem. Whatever is done, be consistent throughout the district.

4 day week . Having consisting days off. Provide the lunch lizard for the the kids that are in need for food or offer extended hours at the school.

Have them on Fridays, one or two days per quarter, with a 4-day work week (M-Thurs. )

Extended hours is an excellent program that already offers care to students who's parents work on non-contact days. I like the idea of awarding scholarships to families that can't afford care.

In service should be done prior to students starting school, work and plan days should be combined as one, and adding additional student contact days.

4 day week with year round school calendar. Allows for fewer days over the summer that childcare is needed. The Friday off each week may be hard for some families bc kids will be hungry, parents need to work etc. c" Could we look at district funded scholarships for those kids to help get them to extended hour programs?

A 4 day work week, working an additional day when needed for non-student contact days.

Have a consistent day off, for example every 2nd Friday of the month. Or, go to a 4 day school week.

Year round school with Friday preferred if a day is needed during the week

Yes, negotiate for less days. Also, use 2 days before Thanksgiving.

Move to a 4 day week, Monday - Thursday, develop focused education 'camps' for Friday and school break periods

Four day week with Fridays off would create a consistent calendar that business, parents, care groups, and employers can rely on. Special accommodations for those that leverage school for care while at work can be made. It's possible that money saved in a 4-day model could be leveraged to help those that cannot make a 4-day schedule work. Consider using Friday to teach "skilled" positions like plumbing, carpentry, electrical, etc.

Consistent days off that follow a set pattern

combine work days with inservice days. our teacher work days are for grades. teachers are usually done by 10.

have them on Friday and schedule work and planning on same day, like the idea of using the rest of Thanksgiving week, consistency too

Concentrate non contact days around breaks. Make sure the full 8 hours is used.

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Responses

# Knowing a change in start times for elementary and high school will require time and money, what would you recommend for changing start times?



"Use evidence based approach to school days start time / length to optimize outcomes"

"Start earlier, by a bit later. Follow research."

"Best for older kids to start later. Not drastically later, because that would interfere with extra-curricular (sports/jobs). I don't think elem needs to start earlier, but they could"

"I would ask that a variety of data/research is collected for and against. I believe that allowing high school to remain the same or a minor change to the time."

"Start elementary earlier (the same time as Secondary now) and Secondary later (the same time as elementary now), eliminating the need for more buses (hopefully)"

"Plan to start times for high schoolers. If a high schooler wants to start late, let them (college approach). Create a teaching environment that offers students the ability to choose what works for them. Possibly look at grade levels - Juniors and Seniors have more flexibility (Empower people with guide rails and you will be surprised!"

"I don't know what to do. I'm not sure if it's better to start earlier or later. I'm not sure if it's better to start earlier or later."

## Responses

- Elementary & Secondary Schools 8:00 a.m. start times.
- A bit earlier for Elem and a bit later for Middle and High school.
- both should start between 8 or 8:15
- start elementary first, then high school, then middle.
- 8 a.m. for all schools
- I would recommend that elementary schools start at 730 and secondary schools start at 830-9. Could we just swap elementary and secondary start times? I think starting at the same time may be hard on parents who have to pick up kids at different schools and would probably require more buses which may be cost prohibitive.
- We as a community should become obsessed with educating our children. Both time and money are no cause for lack of education.
- Start school at 8am until 3:00 pm for all - 5 days per week.
- Switch the start times.
- Lest we become beholden to the tyranny of the majority, and the shifting winds that brings, these decisions must be guided by available evidence, both as to research about adolescent brains and as to actual budget impacts from changes.
- Utilizing marijuana to fund extra cost; Elem start time: 8:25, High/middle School start time 7:45.
- Flexible start times for high schoolers. If a high schooler wants to start late, let them (college approach). Create a teaching environment that offers students the ability to choose what works for them. Possibly look at grade levels - Juniors and Seniors have more flexibility the better! Empower people with guide rails and you will be surprised!
- Start Elementary earlier (the same time as Secondary now) and Secondary later (the same time as elementary now), eliminating the need for more buses (hopefully)
- I would ask that a variety of data/research is collected for and against. I believe that allowing high school to remain the same or a minor change to the time.
- Best for older kids to start later. Not drastically later, because that would interfere with extra-curricular (sports/jobs). I don't think elem needs to start earlier, but they could
- Elem earlier, hs a bit later. Follow reaearch.
- Use evidence based approach to school days start time / length to optimize outcomes

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Responses

# Are there any other items left on your "list" that you did not get to share?

"Parents and teachers at the individual schools should have more control over their schools. The Emerson school has a parent go to the Monday, Thursday week, and the rest of the district would do well to look at the results in that school for considering changes to the other schools. Most parents do not make changes to the schedule with short notice. The parents in advance of it is an obligation to do for a year and school for all of the schools, but they need to be done with a measured and scientific approach to get educational outcomes, and consistency with parents and teachers."

"If we decided to go to four day weeks, it could potentially reduce many of the calendar issues in a community, teacher work days, early releases etc. It is essentially what this year's calendar is since we have most holidays off. I would suggest asking the public to decide what day to take 1 personal work to another service on Friday or one of the weekend days."

"Could kids have recess before lunch instead, so that they're not hurrying out and not eating? It may mean longer days, something I don't think would benefit students. One teacher has the business to do their planning when they aren't done. It needs to be considered that there's 100 year old standard tests done at the very end of the year? Colorado kids aren't getting as much educational time as many have received at most of the US, and the fact that 100 year old tests are the only measure, should not be equal to more school days without."

"Is there a way to have more control over the calendar? Is there a way to have more control over the calendar? Is there a way to have more control over the calendar?"

## Responses

19 Responses

- Let teachers plan when they want - i.e., don't schedule planning time - empower them to do it when they want.
- Fragmented weeks affect special services at all schools: special education, speech, occupational therapy, etc. Shorter school weeks could not help the students who need the structure most.
- When considering calendar, also consider when standardized testing is. eg. Adding days to the end of the year after testing doesn't help in prep and loses teaching time.
- Current calendar is based on 150 year old tradition. Educate the public to why we are here. Catch up to modern family the research from John Hopkins is old and not based on grand Junction. We should as a community become obsessed with education of our kids. We must work toward repairing parental input and relationships. We have been pushed out so that when actual input from community is needed there is little input.
- Create skilled trade curriculum for non-contact days which is supported by the community and businesses.
- Start school later in Aug, no fall break, move spring break to coincide with Easter, parent/teacher conference to only 1 day, negotiate for more student-
- What I've seen is that teachers become more exhausted as the school year goes on. They need summer break to recharge, engage in extended professional development and plan for the following year. Summer break should be at least 8 weeks long.
- With either a 4 or 5 day week, kids need to have shorter summers, more frequent breaks throughout the year and no more than 7 hour school day.
- Do not need to reinvent the wheel. Look at other districts that have already gone to the later start times and see how it's working. Look at year round programs - how is performing? Elementary going year round, leaving middle and high schools out works perfectly fine in larger districts. Why wouldn't it work here? Change can be scary, but sometimes oh so worth it!!!
- My biggest concern has nothing to do with the schools, but the impact on families. We may say that we want the best education for the kids, but when parents are stressed, kids struggle at school. We have many schools turning into Title I schools, which means families are struggling to stay alive. Changing start times may cause more struggle, and prevent high schoolers from being able to get jobs after school, and make it difficult for elementary kids to get home if parents or older siblings can't get them. To sum it up, be careful of the impact it will have in families.
- Longer lunch/recess at the Elementary and Middle Schools. Teacher planning when it's most convenient to them. Affordable and expanded am/pm programs if there's a 4 day school week.
- I believe in evidence-based, not the opinions of a few. Please make decisions on what is working elsewhere. Reduce the amount of non contact days and have teachers use workdays as they see fit instead.
- getting out after Memorial Day this year is a major change and a bad one, JUCO is going on that week and it is a big thing in this community, the early release and every other Wed for kinders is a nightmare for working parents, so many Mondays off this year, like to know why, know there are lots of logistics that have to be looked at but there has to be a better calendar than what we have, the start times for both are also difficult for parents, need to be the same even if more buses are needed, look at what other districts are doing
- As a parent we have had numerous calendar changes thru out the last 12 years. Numerous decisions have been made about what is best at the time. Every time parents presented in adverse the board (previous) did not take into account the parents, and students thoughts or reasonings. 4 day week would be the best. We basically have had a four day week for the entire month of October.
- Would prioritize a four day week, year round calendar and change of start times. Kids would go Monday-Thursday. For holiday weeks kids would go Tuesday-Friday. District could look at scholarships for extended hours for kids if needed. Days would have to be longer IF we kept a 5 day week schedule but could remain shorter with year round school. Would have more scheduled breaks throughout the year and a shorter summer. Kids are too hard to get back into school with 11-12 weeks off in a row. A holiday in the fall would be much appreciated. Swapping start time for elementary and secondary schools ( whatever is needed depending on length of day to meet contract needs) would be beneficial. Regardless, having consistency week to week and year to year would be terrific.

## Responses

I hope the steering committee's recommendations, including the bases relied upon in formulating those recommendations, will be made public. We need to know what components were considered in this process, and how each component was weighted. Specific examples of due diligence about budget, research, and teacher needs should be included, with explanations of the alternatives that were considered. Where there is a consensus in peer reviewed literature on a particular subject, it should not be disregarded.

Couldn't kids have recess before lunch in elem, so that they're not hurrying out and not eating? 4 day week means longer days, something I don't think would benefit elem kids. Give teachers the license to do their planning when they want- does it need to be scheduled for them? Why aren't standardized tests done at the very end of the year? Colorado kids aren't getting as much instructional time, as many days in school as most of the US, and the fact that D51 has 9 more days than the Colo minimum...I would wish we could have more school days in the year.

If we decided to go to four day weeks, it could potentially solve many of the calendar issues (i.e. consistency, teacher work days, early release etc.). It is essentially what this year's calendar is since we have most Mondays off. I would suggest polling the public to decide what day to take. I personally work in customer service and Friday is one of my busiest days.

Parents and teachers at the individual schools should have more control over their schedule. New Emerson should be allowed to go back to the Monday - Thursday week, and the rest of the district would do well to look at the results in that school for considering changes to the other schools. Most importantly, do not make changes to the schedule with short notice (<6 months in advance). It is an ideal goal to shift to a universal schedule for all of the schools, but this needs to be done with a measured and scientific approach to optimize educational outcomes, and compatibility with parents and teachers.

## Do you have a suggestion or different idea to create planning time for elementary teachers?

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Responses

### Responses

Four day school week, or later start time with planning time

I would like to see a 4 day school week, Monday-Thursday, planning times can done on Friday mornings for the teachers and they can have the afternoons off.

4 day school week, Fridays off for teacher work day/ planning/ training, gives kids in extra curricular activities a day to travel for meets, competitions, etc.

4 day school week. Then plan times could be on Fridays or one day off each month to provide plan time

Have it on one day instead of all these early release days. Could all these work days be built into a 4-day school week.

No. Just don't like Wednesday early release. Although I do think elementary kids do well with one short day a week

No Add art and full time music back into elementary. Get rid of early reale

A 4 day school week with Fridays off. This gives them plenty of time to plan after the week is over and plan for the following week.

Four day school week or release students 20-30 minutes earlier everyday.

Four day work school week with Friday as a plan day.

4 days a week with Friday being their planning time and time to meet with parents. Not used for their own personal time with their kids/actives

Four day week with Friday for learning communities and planning.

Follow best practice that is working for Middle and High school, ie: electives leading to teachers ability to meet for extended periods of time.

maybe having a 'designated substitute' teacher one day (or half-day) every week for that particular teacher

4 day school week. monday thru thursday

I like the idea of utilizing elective teachers to make the school day more effective for teachers.

Increase teacher work hours, and salaries, to allow planning time outside of school hours. Making the teacher work-week 40hrs.

Hire more teachers and offer electives such as Spanish.

Thank you to all the teachers in this room. A four day week would be beneficial as for me as a parent.

A four day school week, with Friday's off (or partially off, to meet the requirement).

If we are moving toward four day weeks, have the Friday off rather than Monday. Plan times on Fridays.

Use time prior to school starting to plan, since they don't start the school day since 0850.

Electives! Electives would engage students in learning AND solve the plan time problem

We should go to a four day work week, with Friday's being the day where teacher's have a plan day half day, and LC and meetings scheduled for the second half of those Fridays. We should have this every week, with teachers showing up every Friday. Making SURE that our scheduled plan time does not get changed to district meetings or required LC time.

Add full time elective classes 4 day school week, planning on Friday.

A 4-day school week would allow for planning, but that could create issues with finding childcare one day a week.

300 min a week equals 60 minutes a day. Specials time for elem students is 60 min each day and consider Wednesdays, giving teachers 300 minutes of planning.

Create more elective classes; both to benefit students for their various learning (art, music, yoga, pe, computer, library, counseling) and create longer planning time for the teacher.

Really needs to be incorporated daily. Electives would be very beneficial to students in elementary school as well.

"I thought early release Wednesday was for planning but our teachers at our elementary school always ended up having meetings during that time leaving them no planning time just that, because they can be prepared to teach our future."

"Create more elective classes to engage students."

"The Wednesday early release is truly because it disrupts the flow of the week. Friday would be better."

"Special education preschool needs time to meet with each preschool team to support learners with different strategies learning behaviors learning."

"Max time prior to start of the school day or if we must have early release, please switch to Friday."

"Having a 4 day school week would allow for one day a week to plan for the upcoming week. We care about what is best for kids and if you look at New Orleans that had been doing this model for months their scores are so. Also, activities are on Friday. A lot of students over at the elementary level are gone on Friday."



## Responses

What if elementary teachers started to group students and taught one or two subject areas and switched students? Not sure how teams could work this out for same time planning though.

Add more electives and certified teachers to teach these classes. 4 day a week

Hire teachers for art, STEM, other electives. Kids need the exposure to multiple creative and energetic outlets. No designated subs! Fridays off before Mondays!

4 day week with Friday being a planning day.

Having a 4 day school week would allow for one day a week to plan for the upcoming week. We care about what is best for kids and if you look at New Emerson that had been doing this model for awhile their scores are up. Also, athletics are on Fridays. A lot of students even at the elementary level are gone in Fridays.

Plan time prior to start of the school day or, if we must have early release, please switch to Friday.

Special education preschool needs time to meet with each preschool team to support learners with different strategies (learning, behavior, teaming). In

The Wednesday early release is tricky because it interrupts the flow of the week. Friday would be better.

Create more elective classes to engage students.

I thought Early release Wednesday's was for planning but our teachers at our elementary school always ended up having meetings during that time. Keep their planning time just that. Sacred so they can be prepared to teach our future.

## Do you have a suggestion or other recommendation for a calendar structure?

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Responses

"Concerns that a 4 day week will negatively impact students making poor choices when home alone. Disenfranchisement can't help with 4 day weeks. This will not help long term to create jobs and improve living standards."

"I think consistency is good for kids. If the 4 day week and it was harder for my kids to get used to, but once they did, they thrived. I think breaking school days and lengthening the school year for compensation would be ok. The days are long on 4 day weeks. I would be ok with 5 day weeks for shorter days, but no early release."

"A 4 day week with Fridays off kids will be in school less days, but more hours. If we need to have national holidays off on Mondays then they can go to school that Friday. This allows for the most consistency and not make it a lot easier for parents and teachers?"

"I implemented a 4 day school year in our district for 5 day school weeks with a few breaks throughout the year."

"A 4 day week at the beginning of the semester, along with planning and an early release. Elementary four day week in the middle and high school would 5 day week shorter summer with longer breaks during the year."

### Responses

Love DIA/New Emerson's 4 day, just make the off day Friday.

The fractured weeks lead to fractured education.

Shorten summer and use extra time days for required hourly regulations

Yes, 4 days week with Friday's off. Works amazing for most families

Really would like to see a 4 day school week with Fridays off.

4 day a week with Friday for planning and learning communities.

4 day a week with no more early release days Move early release days to Fridays.

Go to school 5 days, we talk about improving scores and achievements, then get students into classrooms more.... Our longer breaks hurt students with keeping up.

Take out fall break and go to 4 days with Fridays off

Very nice to have breaks at end of semester.

A four day week for students and a 5 day week for staff. ANY day of the week off is fine with me, as long as teachers have a day dedicated to planning and LC time. We need the time in order to best help students.

4 day school week. The district we moved from did not take off any major holidays on a Monday unless it was on a normally scheduled break like Christmas

I think cutting out the early release on wed. and maybe shortening the school day by a bit would be great

Start the school year a few days earlier, so we aren't going to school after Memorial Day. All schools should have teacher in service days the same day.

Please be consistent. Have all the planning time standardized and combined into one day a week or a whole week off; i.e. 4 day week.

It has been proven that year round school increases student retention and reduces teacher burn out by spreading out the the school calendar year. It also makes family time easier. Most parents cannot take all of summer break off (unless they are teachers) and kids are left to their own devices.

Continue with a 5 day week. Kids needs consistency.

I worry a little that a 4 day week would make for long days for kids. Please bring back Fall Break!

It is punitive for high school athletes and academics extracurricular students to have 13 Monday's off and still be required to miss Friday's for participation in their sports. 4 day school week with Friday's off to account for planning hours.

As few Mondays off as possible. Move in service and parent/teacher conferences back to Thursday/Friday. Move 1/2 of EE day and in services to before school starts and give teachers more time in their rooms before students come in. Time to work with peers, to plan, to get ready.

Not a four day weekend. Bad idea for this community for a whole host of reasons. Please end before Memorial Day Weekend .

Four day weeks, taking Friday off / as no contact days. Holidays, aside from the six Federal holidays, students go to school. Administration can determine planning or teacher requirements on Friday's. No early release. No fall break. The only long breaks are Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring Break.

A four day school week for students and a five day work week for staff. Any day for planning and LC. No more short Wednesdays.

Each quarter should be solid instruction, then 1 week of testing followed by a break. Then repeated for all 4 quarters. Weeks should be consistent, not fragmented (days off attendance and start/end times)

4 day school week, Monday-Thursday. Having Mondays off is absolutely ridiculous if we are really talking about what's best for the kids! So many kids and staff already miss school on Fridays and if it's a Monday then we are down to 3 days a week!

We need five day school weeks.

## Responses

Similar to an option on the previous slide, a consistent calendar with a full 6-8 weeks (whether 4 or 5-day) followed by a week off would allow for structure and routine, with enough time for full units of instruction followed by time off for teachers and students preventing burnout. Delta County's calendar is structured this way and is well-liked and effective.

Is a longer day best for elementary students?

If we go to a 4 day week, Friday's off would be best for kids. High schoolers lose out on instruction and have a ton of homework. Elementary aged kids also are pulled to travel with older siblings.

going to school into late may is going to effect juco and attendance. 4 day school week. fridays off. love new emerson schedule. no fridays period

End school before Memorial Day. End early release for Wednesday's. Add Fall break back. Either 4 day or 5 day week, but more complete weeks. Some students do better with 5 days

Summer needs to start before Memorial Day. I like the idea of a 4 day school week, it just needs to be a consistent day. I have found with elementary teachers too much of the day is watching movies I could show them at home. A shorter day makes the teachers use time more effectively.

Consistency is key. If we make the calendar predictable parents can have plenty of time to find child care options and kids will know what to expect from each day at school. But additionally it's important that we figure out community options for childcare that is easy and a affordable.

5 day week with 1 week break in October, 3 days off for Thanksgiving (Wed. thru Fri.). 2 weeks at Christmas, 1 week spring break, regular holidays off. If has to be 4 day week Friday should be the day off

A four day work week would be great but Friday's off. I don't think holidays are necessary off.

A full summer break, no fall break, 2 weeks for Christmas and just Wed - Fri for Thanksgiving. One week Spring Break and not all these fragmented weeks with no early release. They don't attend school enough!

Start after Labor Day finish before Memorial Day.

4 day week, be constant with breaks.

No school after Memorial Day, graduation and spring conferences at the end of the school year rather than the beginning of May; more contact days so we're equitable with other districts across the state; steer away from fragmented weeks; Friday short days rather than Wednesday.

5 days a week to educate and feed all of our students

In service days at the beginning of the semesters, Along with planning and workdays. Elementary four day every other week with middle and high school a usual 5 day week. shorten summer with longer breaks during the year.

Implement a shortened summer so we can have full 5 day school weeks with a few breaks throughout the year.

A 4 day week with Fridays off. Kids will be in school less days, but more hours. If we need to have national holidays off on Mondays then they can go to school that Friday. This allows for the most consistency and will make it a lot easier for parents and teachers!

I think consistency is good for kids. I like 4 day weeks and it was hard for my kids to get used to, but once they did, they thrived. I think shortening school days and lengthening the school year to compensate would be ok. The days are long with 4 day weeks. I would be ok with 5 day weeks for shorter days, but no early release.

Concerns that a 4 day week will negatively impact students making poor choices when home alone (because parents can't only work 4 days/week). This will not help long term to create equip and empower lifelong learners

## Do you have a suggestion or different idea to address non-student contact days (including teacher work-days, inservice days, etc)?

"Spread them out so there aren't several fragmented weeks in a month. I like the idea of sending students for electives or community trips during some of these days."

"Just be consistent. A calendar commitment for several years would be great."

"At the Middle School Level, Professional Development needs to be restructured to an in-school coaching model where teachers are not getting a lot of take out of the district in service days. Great on technology. At least, to in-service and to work day would help do an essential work on implementing of the things we are being asked to do. The better models of the state and embedded with teachers in schools helping us with things we are required to be doing from the workshop model and technology. It is definitely helpful to have conferences on days where we are not also expected to teach classes."

"Friday so that there is a day for it."

"If you do not require a 4 day week, then make them on Friday. Monday is a much harder for parents to plan for. If the beginning of the week, there are mandatory meetings. Parents can have all week to work on getting off on Friday."

### Responses

4 day school week with Friday's being for non student contact days. It works  I don't

Keep in mind...What about all the working parents who will find it hard to make daycare arrangements?

Give elementary students art and full time music and then it can happen during school. Do all days on Friday

Involve students in electives/career-day, personal interest classes, school trips to learn about the community/volunteer in the community.

Alternate these days. Some on Friday's. Some on Monday's. I work at multiple schools so the Monday school gets very little services with so many Monday's off.

Friday's off as opposed to Monday's. This year only 20 weeks was school in session on Monday's. Change that to Friday's. Skip holidays such as Presidents Day off.

Avoid stacking these days up into multiple short weeks. October was a challenging month. Pls spread out.

Make the school day for children shorter so teachers can have time at the end of day to plan for the next day.

Consistency would be nice. Whether we go to a four day week or group all the non-contact days to Monday's / Friday's. I do take off work and would like to be consistent with my work calendar.

Have them on the same day of the month if possible, for instance always the 2nd Friday of the month. This would help consistency.

Most of the time when you drive by a school on a teacher work-day the parking lot is empty!

Probably best to keep on Mondays, since consistency is a goal

Consistency would help parents.  Schedule them on Friday's. Maybe in Mexico.

Besides there being too many of them, especially the inservice, please move them to Friday's. Be consistent.

Make the report card simpler so it doesn't take so long to fill it out. Its difficult and time consuming for teachers and parents don't understand it or don't care. Stop with so much professional development and give teachers more planning time.

put a Friday off next to a Monday off to group them as much as possible- instead of several Mondays spread out.

Stagger or rotate in service and planning days. I work at several different schools. Can make it tough to see all students with equal service time

Alternate full day off for all non-contact needs and

These could be held on Fridays if on a 4 day/week schedule. Address some of the inservices to start before school starts. Work with community partners to provide activities for Friday's for those working parents that need options

Inservice needs to be at beginning of school year to be successful and used. Non contact days need to be the same days for K thru 12. Make them on Friday's.

Have non student contact days during holiday breaks for example beginning and end of Christmas break and occasionally Friday's or 4 day weeks with same

Daycare is an issue regardless Friday or Monday's off

Spread them out, be consistent, same time each month

Please get rid of some of the inservice days, keep the work days to do quarterly grades, be consistent and have these days off on the same day

Do we need so many especially if teachers are asking for more planning time?

Consistency! Makes it easier to make arrangements for childcare if we know ahead of time when dates are needed.

avoid having so many of these days all in one month, spread them out

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Responses

## Responses

If there are a lot of negatives to a 4-day week that people are concerned about, then just find us the time to truly plan in our classrooms without having to attend meetings.

All in-service days should be at the beginning or end of school year. Educator effectiveness day should be after quarter 1 to gather and analyze data. Non-student contact days should be enrichment days for students with elective/para staff members; STEM camps, etc that will all be interest based. Partner with CMU, parks and wildlife, eruka, national monument.

Move non-contact days to Friday.

Non-student contact days should be consistent throughout the year. If kiddos were in school Monday through Thursday, it would give both them and students consistency and Fridays are easier to take off work in many different jobs.

Friday would be better than Monday if we have to have a day off.

If we do not move to a 4 day week, then make these on Fridays. Monday's are much harder for parents to plan for. It's the beginning of the week, there are mandatory meetings. Parents can have all week to work on getting off on Friday.

Friday so that families can plan for it.

At the Middle School Level - Professional Development needs to be restructured to an in-school coaching model primarily--teachers are not getting a lot of value out of the district in-service days (most on Mondays). At best, ½ in-service and ½ work day would be helpful so we could work on implementing all the things we are learning and required to do. The better model is differentiated and embedded with coaches in schools helping us with things we are required to be moving toward, like Workshop Model and Schoology. It is definitely helpful to have conferences on days where we are not also expected to teach classes.

Just be consistent. A calendar commitment for several years would be great.

Spread them out so there aren't several fragmented weeks in a month. I like the idea of sending students for electives or community trips during some of those days.

# Knowing a change in start times for elementary and high school will require time and money, what would you recommend for changing start times?



"As a New England parent, I would like to see a later start time for our elementary school. We drive kids from all over the city and some of us have a commute. My kids wake up at 6:30 AM on school days, and they don't have time to eat, don't get home until 4:30 PM. Not to mention the problem, but I would like to see a later start time and maybe bus routes for our school because our kids have to take on some bus which goes out to 12th and through Junction and the Parkside before getting to school. Long story short, later start time for New England would mean lengthening the school year to compensate."

"It may be better for buses to start later, it may mean a real problem because could be a much longer day."

"Follow the AAA/SAP/SDC recommendations of 8:30am or later start times. Use OTT passes for HS students to supplement busing. My daughter gets up at 7:30am. #DICKLIPS This is not a common sense issue. It is a mental health and learning issue."

"It would be great if there were about 20-30 minutes between start times to help parents that have to drop off and/or can bus everyone. Elementary start earlier and secondary start later."

"Start all at 8am."

## Responses

- HS- 8:00    Leave them as they are    8am start for Secondary
- Elementary start at 8:00.    8:00 a.m.    start all grades at 8:30am
- Swap elementary and secondary start times    Everyone goes 8-3
- 750 am elementary. 850 mid and high.
- Elementary start at 8 A.M. and middle high school 8:30 A.M.
- 8 o'clock start for all levels
- All schools should start and end at the same time, approximately 8-4.
- Slightly longer days for elementary. Maybe 8 a.m.?
- What does research say is best for kids? We should do what is best for kids.
- Start all around 8:30am    No earlier than 8:00 am for secondary schools.
- Elementary could start between 8:15-8:30. High school could start between 8:30-9
- all start at 8:00
- Earlier elementary use buses for later high school. move middle school up 1 hour high school 1.5 hours s
- Elementary 0800 Secondary 0815    Elementary at 7:55 secondary 8:30
- 7:45 at the earliest and 8:30 at the latest.
- We should flip the start times- elementary earlier and middle and HS later.
- elementary starts at 8:30, HS/MS at 8:00
- Follow the brain research - which I believe says that elementary students do better with earlier and adolescents/teenagers with later wake-up times.
- every day should be 8-4    7:45 for high school. 8 am for elementary.
- Start all at 8:00
- I work at an elementary walking school with no busses. Kids have to walk up to 2 miles to get to and from school. Starting earlier might mean 1st graders walking to school in the dark. Get more busses.
- Leave hs as is and start elementary at 8    8 to 4
- It seems that younger kids would do better with earlier start time and middle and high school later time, however I am for starting at the same time too.
- Elementary should start at least by 7:45 and secondary by 8:15. But busing is an issue but for safety of kids no child should be at school in the dark.
- All schools start at 7:45 to 3:50.    Start secondary 740-750; elementary 8-815
- I would like elementary to start by 8 or 7:45 and high school at 8 or 8:30.
- Start at 8:00 am
- Start all students at 8:00 am K thru 12. Still need time for athletics activities, and work for high school students.
- MS and HS should not start before 8 am. Elementary should not start before 8 am either. Then play with staggering times 8,8:15,8:30 for example.
- Leave them as they are! Again you talk about parents trying to figure out daycare, what about working parents that have to be to work at 7:30, how would kids get to school when there isn't access to busses due to school of choice? Not good for all kids to get ready on their own
- Younger students are awake so send them to school at 7:20 & then high school around 8:50.
- Have all schools start at the same time! Around 8am. High school students are having to get up way too early especially with sports practices and by the time we get home, dinner, homework. There's no time for family and the kids are so tired! It would be most helpful for parents to have kids start at the same time. Older siblings can help get younger siblings get to school.

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Responses

## Responses

Start all at 8am.

It would be great if there were about 20-30 minutes between start times to help parents that have to drop off unless we can bus everyone. Elementary start earlier and secondary start later.

Follow the AMA/AAP/CDC recommendations of 8:30am or later start times. Use GVT passes for HS students to supplement busing. My daughter gets up at 5:15am. RIDICULOUS! This is not a convenience issue, it is a mental health and learning issue.

While may be better for teens to start later, 4 day week a real problem because would be a much longer day.

As a New Emerson parent, I would like to see a later start time for our elementary school. We draw kids from all over the valley and some of us have a commute. My kids wake up at 6:20 AM on school days, and if they ride the bus home to Fruitsa, don't get home until 4:55 PM. Not everyone has this problem, but I would like to see later start time and multiple bus routes for our school because our kids have to ride on one bus which goes out to Clifton and through Junction and the Redlands before getting to Fruitsa. Long story short: later start time for New Emerson even if it means lengthening the school year to compensate.

## Are there any other items left on your "list" that you did not get to share?

"Have not had any release, teachers get very little planning time and end up in meetings that have little to do with the student groups!"

"Take Day to Memorial Day, 3 days/week. Add more planning within the school day."

"Teachers are over budget!"

"People most affected by 4 day week, are not going to make it one of these repeat sessions. 4 day week problematic for this community, secondary/college kids."

"These focus groups, while useful, represent a small demographic and circumstances of the Valley. How do you ensure you have heard from those unable to attend but representing a large % of our district population? Also, if you consider a 4-day week, have you planned with other school services such as PT, Handwriting, etc? Kids will be hungry and tired and many will be unprepared. Also, it seems that the 4 day proposals are only over a 3 day weekend. That is not an evaluation decision but a budget. Please."

"The school after Memorial Day, in high school once the centers are done, everyone is checked out and now we want them to come back after a holiday weekend, that is easier for husband and both work"

### Responses

Thank you for hearing us! Get rid of days after memorial day

The days after Memorial Day are quantity, not quality, days.

Please don't go after Memorial Day.

please don't take away any more of summer break!

If the District moves to a 4 day week. Please consider a year-round calendar so our kids don't have such long days.

Keep spring break the 3rd week of March because some parents are planners and already have stuff booked for 2020.

I see lots of busses parked in the lots at McDonalds and Burger King in the morning. (Clifton area)

The plan time that is given to teachers can not be changed to "LC" time, or used for "meetings". Too often our time is taken away from us. Our plan time needs to stay plan time.

The fact that we added more student contact days after Memorial Day. This will have an economic impact on our community with overlapping with JUCO. We need to start earlier and be out by Memorial Day.

Really want to end school before Memorial Day, could start a tad earlier in August to accommodate that.

Year round school shorter school days (kids get very tired): later start times, same end time. Reduce non-bus radius to 1mi. Assured paid rider seats for 2mi to 3mi.

August to November is a really long time without a break. Sub issues are terrible!...what would help out best with that? I'd rather go year round than 4 day weeks with Mondays off.

Leave summer alone! Some learners need the extra instructional time during summer; families need tkme

It is unacceptable to keep changing the calendar and not release it in ample time for future planning. The calendar needs to be released before winter break!!!!

With two young kids early release on Wednesdays is not helpful. How many bosses will let you off on a Wednesday half day..extended hours programs fill up

Mondays off we're never a good idea

Plan time needs to stay planning - not more meetings.

After hearing everyone's feedback, I've realized this district is too large and too diverse. Maybe East/West setup might help? Very challenging for sure. We just need consistency from week to week.

After Memorial Day is a huge problem, we live a long ways from our families and the kids go visit for the summer and Memorial Day is the travel time.

Need to think of those folks who are not here and never come to such a time as this, who would be most

Not opposed to 4 days week year round

I really wish my elementary students could be home earlier. When the school days end at 3:50, they don't get home until after 4 and there's no time for them to be kids or participate in extracurricular activities. Also, teachers need more planning time so they can stop showing movies during the school day.

Summer Break is too short and having the kids start back when it's still so hot is not good for their focus. Way too many single days off during the year, causes it to be hard for working parents!

What is BEST fro student learning and teacher "teaching/panning" Summers are way long, and while a 4 day school week meets "family" needs (some not all) a longer school year with later start times for HS and Middle School, earlier for elementary seems best for students leaning 9 weeks is a long time for being out of school. longer year, shorter week

I would gladly give up a week of summer if we could have a Fall Break in October Kids and teachers are exhausted, many are sick, and would be able to focus back on learning once we all return.

Fewer choppy weeks and extended breaks during the school year. It's ok to go past memorial day-many of our students don't leave town for summer

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Responses



## Responses

August is so hot for P.E. and recess. Late May and early June are much cooler for students to be outside.

My sons desire for on-line learning is making more and more sense

I don't care what the schedule looks like as long as there is more plan time for elementary teachers. This means plan time and not more time for LC or district meetings. Keep the learning authentic and think of the engagement level of the kids. Is a longer week truly authentic teaching if the teachers can't plan engaging, rich learning opportunities.

Coming back after Memorial Day is a bad idea - especially considering all testing will already be complete. However, I think it is also helpful if the fall and spring semesters are the same number of days - same with each quarter - the number of days/weeks should be regular and consistent. The district should be consistent with early release days for all three levels. Consider exploratory/elective and SPED teachers' planning needs as well.

Consistency is key. We also need a summer, ideally to start with Memorial Day. If we have two Fridays off a month then we can plan on that. Or four day weeks if the district needs that.

Concerns about students getting up to early or staying in school too long is a societal construct as evidenced by our past and how other countries and their education systems work.

What about starting after Labor Day and getting out before Memorial Day?

Going to school after Memorial Day is a horrible plan. It overlaps with Juco

Fall break and spring breaks are tough with kids in sports or band, they can't leave...

Going to school after Memorial Day does not work. Families don't send kids. JUCO. Get rid of early release by adding plan time during the school day for elementary teachers. K thru 12 have same calendars.

Some how make the final version easier to read. There can be some confusion because of verbiage and different days off for different levels. Calendar is out in plenty of time to plan for my family. Shorter summer isn't an issue since both parents have to work year round in our household.

End by Labor Day for family vacations, summer jobs and JUCO. In another note, We have talked about 4 day weeks but I worry about impoverished areas where children don't have regular food and parents are financially strapped and can't afford daycare so they leave students alone. These parents don't come to meetings like this

Start the new grade after state tests so they can actually learn instead of babysitting time.

Need to find solutions to childcare if we go to 4-day week. Less summer for shorter school days.

I would prefer a shorter summer if we could accommodate teacher planning, consistency on days off and start times! Let's think about how much more refreshing a 4 day week would be for teachers and the amount of time they could have to plan. This could benefit our students much more by having more QUALITY time at school.

Be consistent!

Could we also get feedback from community members and parents who are not able to come to these meetings? Families who may not be able to get daycare or provide for kids' learning on all of the days off. Have graduation and spring conferences at the end of the year, not mid May. Make sure students have enough days in school to get equitable days compared to other districts.

Let teachers teach rather than all the extras required of them. Including meetings, paperwork, extra clubs they lead, events, fundraising, etc. Teachers at our school seemed to get burnt out.

I would agree that 4-day week schedule would benefit from a revised calendar making the school year longer, eliminate fall break, attend longer into the month of June maybe, to keep days from getting too long. Also consider matching kindergarten schedules to elementary schedules, like full-day kindergarten district-wide so kindergarteners and older siblings get dropped off and picked up at the same time from the same school.

No school after Memorial Day! In high school once the seniors are done, everyone is checked out and now we want them to come back after a holiday weekend, that is crazy! My husband and I both work 40-60 hours a week year round, we don't get summers off, or the entire time off when the kids are on breaks! I support the 4 day school week Monday-Thursday. Also as a parent of an athlete, they miss a ton of Fridays and their grades unfortunately do suffer. If not a 4 day school week, early release on Friday. No 4 day school week that is Tuesday- Friday!!!

## Responses

These focus groups, while useful, represent a small demographic and socioeconomic slice of the Valley. How are you ensuring you have input from those unable to attend but representing a large % of our district families? Also, if you consider a 4-day week, have you planned with other social services such as PD, Mindspring, etc? Kids will be hungry and many will be unsupervised. Also, it seems like the 4-day proponents simply want a 3-day weekend. That is not an education decision but a lifestyle. Pls do

People most adversely affected by 4 day week, are not going to make it to one of these input sessions. 4 day week problematic for this community...too many latch key kids.

Teachers are now babysitters.

Labor Day to Memorial Day, 5 days/week. Add more planning within the school day.

Please get rid of early release, teachers get very little planning time and end up in meetings that have VERY little impact on student growth!