

Frequently Asked Questions Concerns and Questions already presented

How the decision was made?

- The board asked in the fall for a 4-day week to be researched
- The faculty and staff had a meeting and was given a survey
- The site base committee was tasked with providing two calendars to present to the board- a 5 day and a 4 day
- The administration took all data and the two calendars to the board to share their findings

Why we sent the survey out after the decision was made?

- Ultimately the board is elected by the community to make the best decision for our students and school and the board felt the 4-day week was the best decision
- The survey was created after the decision to give parents the opportunity to voice what concerns they have with this change
- Those concerns will be evaluated by the school and will be used to help plan the 4-day school year
- We want to hear from you in our planning, moving forward, as we want to make this transition as smooth as we can for all parties

What are the reasons for this change?

- We have researched this for many months. The schools that have been operating on a 4 day week have given much insight into the positive impacts it has on not only the student's education but the faculty as well. They all said it has been very beneficial.
 - Increased student and staff attendance
 - Decreased student discipline
 - Increase in student and staff mental health and decreased anxiety for both parties
 - Increase in grades
 - Increase in test scores
 - Increase in teacher preparedness and intentional learning due to planning time and data analysis
 - Student and staff - higher morale
- So many schools going to a 4-day week in our area make recruitment very hard because they would rather work a 4-day week than a 5-day week. We want to be able to continue to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers which will allow us to ensure quality instruction.
- This is a benefit and enticement for staff that does not increase the budget and allows us to compete in hiring employees and retaining those that we currently have
- To provide consistency to the parents when seeking care for children when not in school

What does Fridays off mean?

- The students would go to school Monday through Thursday and be off every Friday.
- Professional and Para-professionals would work 1 or 2 Fridays per month

Does this affect when the students start the school year and when it ends?

- No. Students will begin on August 7th and end on May 23rd

- This past year we started August 9th and will end on May 25th

Does this affect the start and end times of school?

- Yes, students will start at 7:45 and end at 4:12. This adds 57 minutes to each day
- We now have 450 minutes in the day and we will have 507 next year

How many days will students go to school?

- Students will go to school for 148 full days and 2 early release days which are the day before Christmas break and the last day of school. These early release days will be 7:45-12:45.

Will there be instructional time lost?

- Student will attend school for 507 minutes a day for a total of 75,636 minutes. The Texas Education Agency requires students to attend school for 75,600 minutes in a school year.

How do you plan to help the elementary students cope with a longer day?

- They will be given extended recess time, or possibly an extra one for the little ones
- There will be more diversified learning to break up the longer class periods

Why would students be out on Fridays and not Mondays?

- Research shows that when students go out of town early or take a day off, it is usually on Friday
- In high school, students are allowed 3 tournaments a year for each sport. This means that students would be out a minimum of 9 Fridays and those students would receive a 2-day week of instruction for at least 9 weeks of the year.

What will a 4-day instructional week do to our holidays in the year?

- Thanksgiving Break will be a week
- Christmas Break will be the same length
- Spring Break will be a week
- We will be off for Labor Day and Martin Luther King, Jr Day
- There will not be any of the random days off like we have this year-this is to help with obtaining child care because the time off will always be a Friday. We wanted consistency for the parents

How will this affect Extra-Curricular Activities on Fridays (ball games, etc.)?

- We will play games and participate in other competitions that are on Fridays just as we always have
- The upside to this is that a junior high student that travels to a ballgame on Thursdays to play and gets home very late will not have to wake up early to attend school on Friday morning
- In addition, coaches that travel on those same junior high trips will not have to be at work early on Friday either. (We do understand that coaches and other staff will have to work on Friday game days.)
- If transportation is an issue these days, we will develop plans with each program (athletics, robotics, ag, etc.) to get students to these activities

Is the four-day instructional week being introduced for financial reasons?

- No. This is a budget-neutral change.

Will this lower the pay of the staff

- Absolutely not! Miller Grove ISD will not be lowering anyone's pay. We want this change to help recruit and retain staff. The best way to accomplish this is to reduce the number of days worked and not reduce pay.

17. How will we know if this is successful?

- We would do this as a 3-year pilot program, looking at the following data to determine success or not:
 - Student Academic Success (STAAR tests, reading levels, math skill levels, completing Dual Credit college hours, earning industry certifications, graduation rates)
 - Student enrollment numbers
 - Student attendance rates
 - Employee attendance rates
 - Percentage of students participating in extra-curricular activities
 - Employee retention rate
 - Numbers of certified and highly qualified applicants for each open position
 - Parent/Student/Employee surveys