

Summary of Bell Schedule Survey Results

The results of the Bell Schedule Survey, administered January 22 – February 1, provided insight from 1,203 parents, students and teachers regarding three primary considerations for a common high school schedule: the number of academic classes in an 8-period schedule; the role of the anchor day; and whether to use a fixed, rotational or hybrid schedule.

Number of Academic Classes in an 8-Period Schedule

The survey asked whether students should have 7 or 8 academic classes in 8 periods. Overwhelmingly, teachers responded in favor of 7 academic classes in 8 periods (84% to 12.4%). Parents (including employees who are parents) favored 7 academic classes as well, but by a smaller margin (68.9% to 31%). Students were nearly split between the two options, indicating a slightly higher preference for 7 academic classes in 8 periods (51.3% to 46.5%).

The survey results confirm that students value choice and flexibility in their scheduling options. Survey participants also indicated support of:

- Schedule changes for real-world or career experiences or enrichment;
- Building time into the school day to support students through time with teachers and/or counselors;
- Building in work time so that less work has to be completed outside of school hours; and
- Providing a flexible schedule that fits the needs of individual students.

Role of the Anchor Day

In response to asking what survey participants would change about the current high school schedule, “Anchor Day” received the largest number of responses. More than 20% of respondents selected it directly, and several others commented on it as an “Other” option.

Survey respondents indicated that they value the anchor day because it creates consistency in the schedule and provides time for students and teachers to connect. However, survey participants said they would like to see better use of instructional time and transition time, as well as a better balance of homework/workload during the week.

Fixed, Rotational or Hybrid Schedule

The final two questions on the survey asked respondents to rate their preference for a fixed or rotational schedule. More survey participants responded in favor of a rotational schedule, with 53.2% rating it a 3 or 4 on a scale of zero to 4, with zero being “Do Not Prefer” and a 4 being “Prefer.” In comparison, only 25.9% of respondents rated a fixed schedule with a 3 or 4.

Comments revealed that survey participants value flexibility and equivalent instructional time for all classes.