



DUNLAP COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #323

*Empowering all students to reach their individual potential.*

400. S Fourth Street | Dunlap, IL 61525 | (309) 243-8700

## 2023-2024 School Calendar Survey (results)

Each year, the School Calendar Committee convenes to review and recommend changes for the Dunlap Board of Education to review and approve. The School Calendar Committee is comprised of administrators and teachers.

In order to make sure that the school calendar meets the needs of **all** our stakeholders and that all voices have the opportunity to be heard and considered, the School Calendar Planning Committee is requesting families and staff to complete the following survey. With the survey responses, the Calendar Planning Committee can review and suggest changes that are in line with the needs and preferences of our families and staff, while also meeting District initiatives and requirements posed by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Per the Illinois School Code, school districts **must** create a calendar that has:

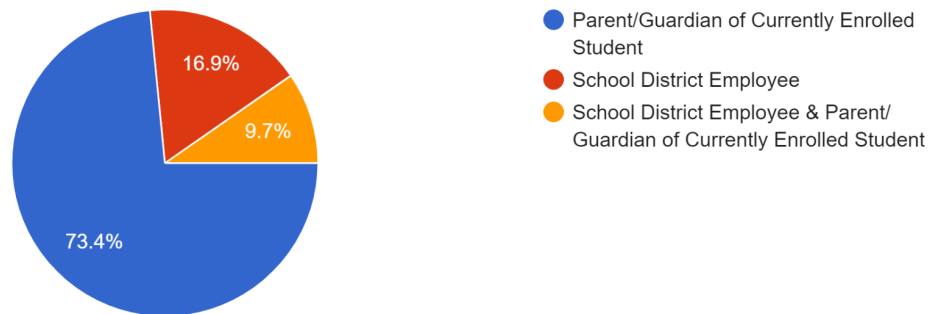
- 176 days of student attendance,
- No more than 185 in total (including emergency days, Institute Days, and School Improvement Half-Days), and
- Have no-attendance days on legal holidays that cannot have students in session.

For more information on Illinois Public School District Requirements, see ISBE's [Public School Calendar](#) page.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Dunlap CUSD #323 values the strong partnership with all of our stakeholders! Results from the survey will be posted shortly after the survey closes on **Monday, November 7, 2022**. To maintain the fidelity of the survey results, please complete this survey only once.

Which of the following describes you best?

1,336 responses



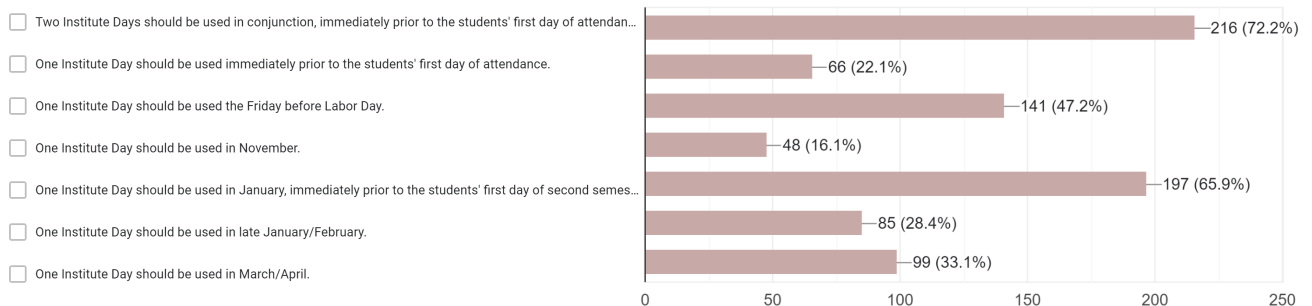
### District Employee Question

Dunlap's school calendar is built to provide certified staff members with 4 Institute Days. On these days, students are not in attendance, but certified staff are.

Historically, 2 of these Institute Days are used the Monday and Tuesday before the students' first day in August, another one the Friday before Labor day, and the final one used in either January or March.

Please select THREE statements below to indicate your highest preference regarding the placement of Institute Days throughout the school year:

299 responses



Likert Scale Questions

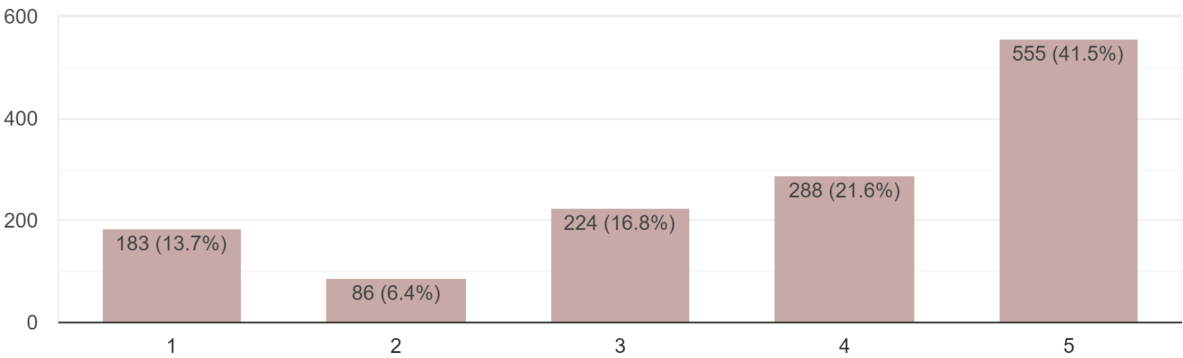


Use the Likert Scale below each of the following questions to rate your feelings on a scale of 1-5, where:

- 1 - Not Important
- 2 - Somewhat Important
- 3 - Undecided/Neutral
- 4 - Important
- 5 - Very Important

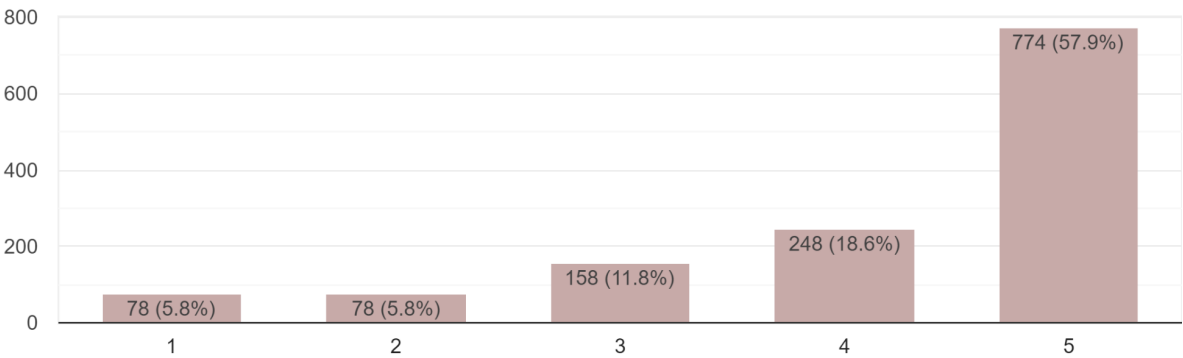
How important is it to have the school year end before Memorial Day?

1,336 responses



How important is it to have a winter break that is at least two full weeks (10 "school days") in length?

1,336 responses

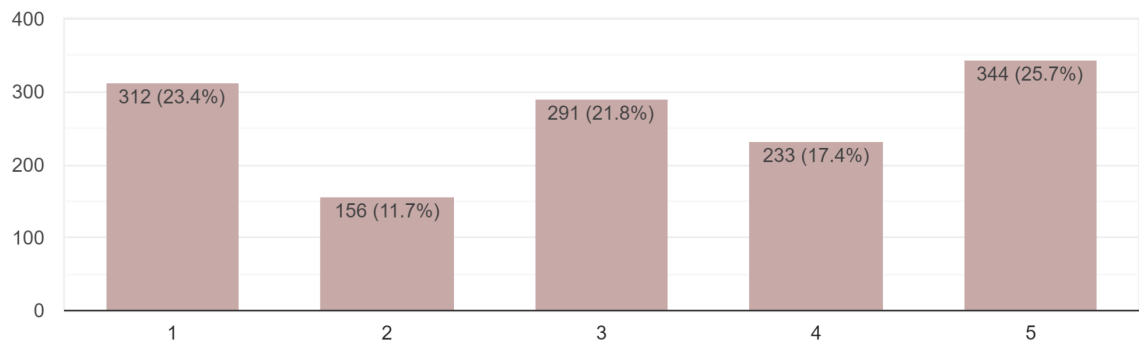


If Easter does **not** fall close to spring break, "Good Friday" is taken off the weekend of Easter.

How important would it be to also have "Easter Monday" off following Easter?

(A multiple choice question about spring break and the Easter holiday is included later on.)

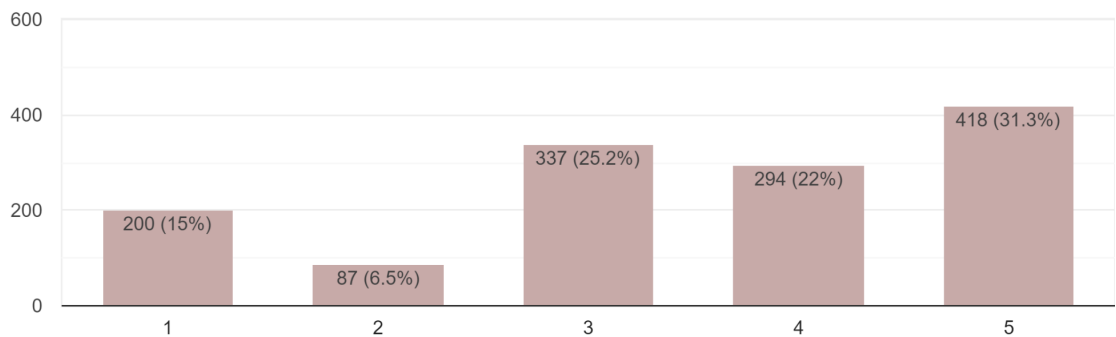
1,336 responses



Illinois Public School districts **must** have five "emergency days" built in to their school calendar. For the past few years, Dunlap has these days integrated into the calendar either the Monday after easter or the last Fridays in May (if the calendar allows). Then, if the days are used, school is in session (these are currently marked with a red "X" on the [current school year calendar](#)).

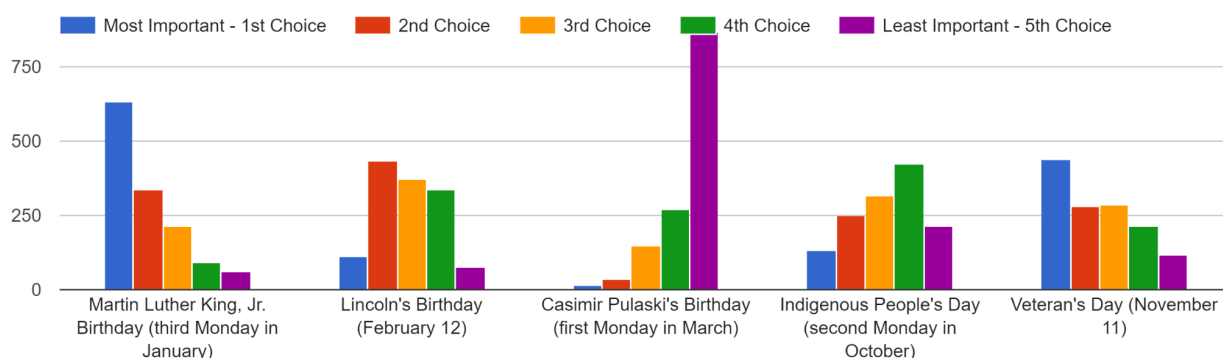
How important is it to you having emergency days built into the calendar as it has been the past few years?

1,336 responses



The holidays listed in the graph below are permitted legal holidays when schools **can** be in session. However, Dunlap typically observes some of these holidays with a non-attendance day.

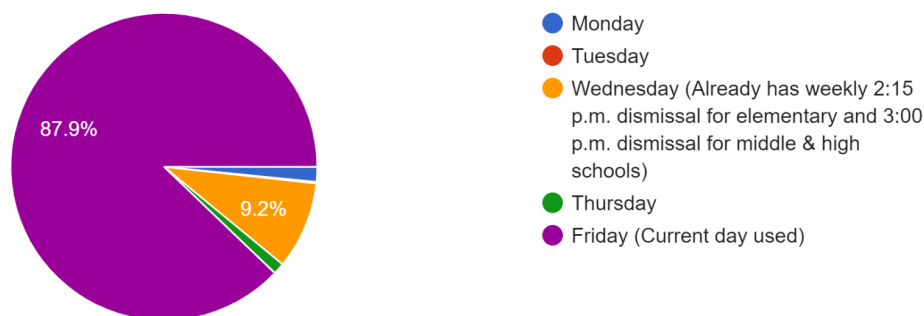
Rank the holidays listed below in order of importance to consider to observe if the calendar allows (i.e. election years when Illinois public schools must be closed on election day, we have traded off Indigenous People's Day, formerly Columbus Day).



Which day of the week would be best to have half-day School Improvement (SIP) afternoons where students are dismissed early (Elementary @ 11:15 a.m., Middle & High Schools @ 12:00 p.m.)?

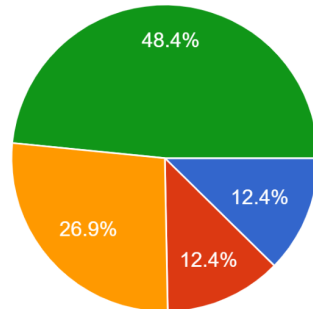
Remember, there are only 4 SIP afternoons each year.

1,336 responses



Which of the following statements regarding spring break best describes your preference?

1,336 responses



- Spring break should always take place during the exact middle of the second semester.
- Spring break should always coincide with the Easter holiday regardless of when Easter falls.
- Spring break should only coincide with the Easter holiday if Easter is near the...
- I do not have a strong preference as to the placement of spring break.

## Additional Feedback Themes:

	Start and End of School Year					
225 Additional Comments	Preference for: "Year-round" school (longer school year with more built in breaks / shorter summer) Match breaks to Dist. 150 / "balanced calendar"	Start after Labor Day / start later in August and go later into June	Preference for No year-round school	Emphasized done by Memorial Day	Start earlier in August	Emphasized that student's first day of school remain Wednesday
Frequency of Comment:	25	17	3	2	2	3

	PLC Days / SIP Days / TI Days									
225 additional comments total	Prefer no PLC early dismissal days	Put PLC early dismissal day on Friday	Coordinate SIP days in conjunction with holidays off	When Election Day must be taken off, Plan TI the day before	Emphasized Friday as the SIP day	Plan a 1/2 SIP day on Halloween	Plan TI or SIP at the quarter's end - for data review, progress updates, and reporting	Emphasized January TI prior to student return for 2nd semester	Return to Peoria County September Institute	Early Sept. TI too early in the year
Frequency of Comment:	1	3	3	1	1	2	2	3	1	1

	Fall Breaks	
225 additional comments total	Implement a "fall break" / take Monday + Tuesday off the week of Thanksgiving / or the whole week of conferences off	Modify the conference schedule to take only 1 student not in attendance day
Frequency of Comment:	34	2

	Winter Break				
225 additional comments total	Winter Break should be longer than 2 weeks / encompass 3 weekends	Winter break should coordinate with other area districts	Emphasized 2 full weeks (10 school days) for winter break	Request more of the days off BEFORE the Christmas holiday	Request more of the days off AFTER the holidays
Frequency of Comment:	6	4	9	6	2

	Spring Break / Easter Break						
225 additional comments total	Emphasized spring break should coincide with Easter holiday	Emphasized spring break always placed in the middle of 2nd semester / consistently the same week in March	Later spring breaks are better	Spring break should coordinate with other area districts / universities	No Good Friday or Monday after Easter off - not required Federal holidays	Monday after Easter always off - not as an emergency day	Coordinate spring break to follow Daylight Savings
Frequency of Comment:	2	8	1	10	3	2	1

	Emergency Days					
225 additional comments total	Emphasized keep the built in emergency days on Fridays	Build in the emergency days, but not always on Fridays / attach the emergency days to other holidays off	Utilize the remote learning option instead of emergency days	Use optional holidays as emergency days	Place the emergency days all together at the end of the year, not built in	Monday after Easter should be the 4th or 5th emergency day, not the 1st
Frequency of Comment:	2	2	5	1	17	1

	Optional Holidays						
225 additional comments total	Take off no "optional" holidays - all are of least importance	Prefer Presidents Day off over Lincoln's Birthday	Plan optional days so every month has at least 1 day off	Coordinate optional holidays off so there can be a 3 or 4 day weekend in Feb/March	Emphasized the importance of observing Veterans Day with non-attendance (for students and staff)	Veteran's day in session - with school activities	Emphasized the observance of Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples day with non-attendance
Frequency of Comment:	6	1	3	2	5	1	3

	Miscellaneous Comments						
225 additional comments total	Elementary Students should start the school day later in the a.m.	Consider non-Christian holidays and how they can impact the placement of breaks / in coordination with TI and SIP Days	Bring back parent curriculum night	Take off more days in the 2nd semester for balance	Finalize the calendar early so parents can plan / call out "new" changes	Partner with Right-at-School to provide options to parents on SIP, optional holidays, extended breaks, and emergency days	Give non-certified teachers an option to attend TI/SIP days and get paid
Frequency of Comment:	2	5	1	1	2	2	1