

Innovative Calendar 2023-24

Planning, Research and Survey Results



“Teachers matter more to student achievement than any other aspect of schooling. Many factors contribute to a student’s academic performance, including individual characteristics and family and neighborhood experiences. But research suggests that, among school-related factors, **teachers matter most.**”

Isaac M. Opper, Ph. D.
Rand Corporation



Work in Advance of Survey

- Attended 2 seminars re: 4-day instructional week (Athens ISD, Region 10)
- Developed 15+ draft calendar variations (4-Day, Traditional, Hybrid)
- Convened calendar committee
- Consulted Superintendent's Council



Committee Participants

- More than 100 representatives
- Professionals / paraprofessionals / auxiliary / parents
- Principal recommendations
- Department representatives



Committee's Common Likes (4-Day Draft)



- Good for attracting/retaining teachers
- Extra day for students to rest/catch up
- Facilities staff can complete campus projects on Fridays
- Breaks remain the same
- Effective planning time for teachers
- Extra minutes in the school day (never enough)
- Eliminates need for subs on Fridays
- Better work/life balance
- Remote planning option
- Consistent routine for students
- Ability to schedule appointments/conferences on Fridays
- Employment opportunities for older students
- Resolves after-school care for some families



Committee's Common Concerns (4-Day Draft)

- Longer school day
- UIL rules for band/loss of practice time
- Extended hours/week for coaches/band directors who must work on Fridays
- No Fall Break
- Food insecurity for students
- Child care challenges
- Unsupervised students on Fridays
- Schedule challenges for staff with students in other districts



Committee's Common Likes (Hybrid Draft)

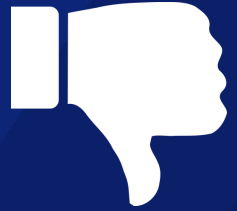


- More holidays throughout the year
- Shorter school day than 4-day option
- Fall Break stays
- More like traditional calendar
- More frequent breaks
- Planning days built in
- More instructional days than 4-day option



Committee's Common Concerns (Hybrid Draft)

- No routine/structure (too choppy)
- Doesn't benefit students or staff
- Makes securing childcare more difficult



Committee's Thought Exchange Results

86 participants • 60 thoughts • 1,305 ratings

After hearing today's comments and discussion, which of the three calendar options (traditional, 4-day or hybrid) do you believe is the best option for Mesquite ISD and why?

Traditional = 5

Hybrid = 7

4-day = 30



Committee's Thought Exchange Results

#1 of 60 rated 4.3

"4-day—As a district, we have to figure a way to attract and keep good quality teachers. Teacher shortage is nationwide. We must stand out to attract quality."

#2 of 60 rated 4.3

"I loved hearing all the perspectives from everyone. This is the first time I've ever experienced true listening from upper admin. I feel invigorated because I know I'm supported."

#3 of 60 rated 4.2

"4-day—recruiting, consistency, time for teachers"



Committee's Thought Exchange Results

#4 of 60 rated 4.2

"4-day work week—Recruitment of teachers and coaches that want to be in MISD"

#5 of 60 rated 4.2

"I believe the 4-day would be more helpful for teachers as well as students. With the longer days, the student that need the extra help could receive that help during the day. Teachers will also have an extra day to plan."



Survey Details

- Jan. 27 - Feb. 6
- 33,685 invitations sent via email
(all staff, contacts 1 & 2 for students - 1 invitation per email address)
- Total response rate = 41% (13,859 completed surveys)
- Parents responses = 10,503
- Staff response Rate = 69% (4,609)
- 76% of respondents were parents of MISD students
- Survey designed to gather general info (not a vote)



Impact a 4-day instructional week would have on your decision to stay with MISD? (staff only)

No impact on my decision

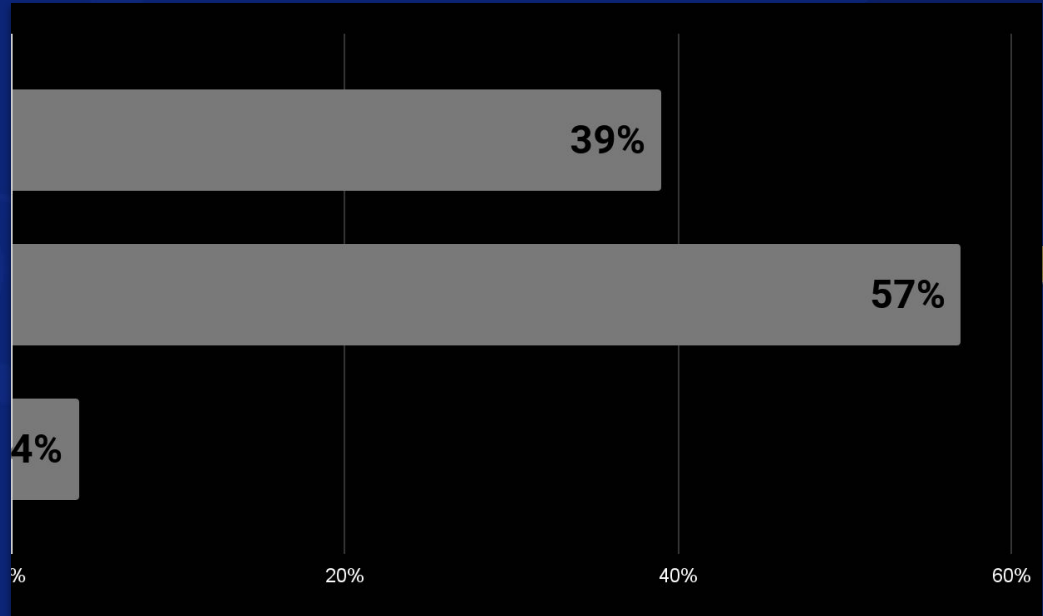
39%

More likely to stay

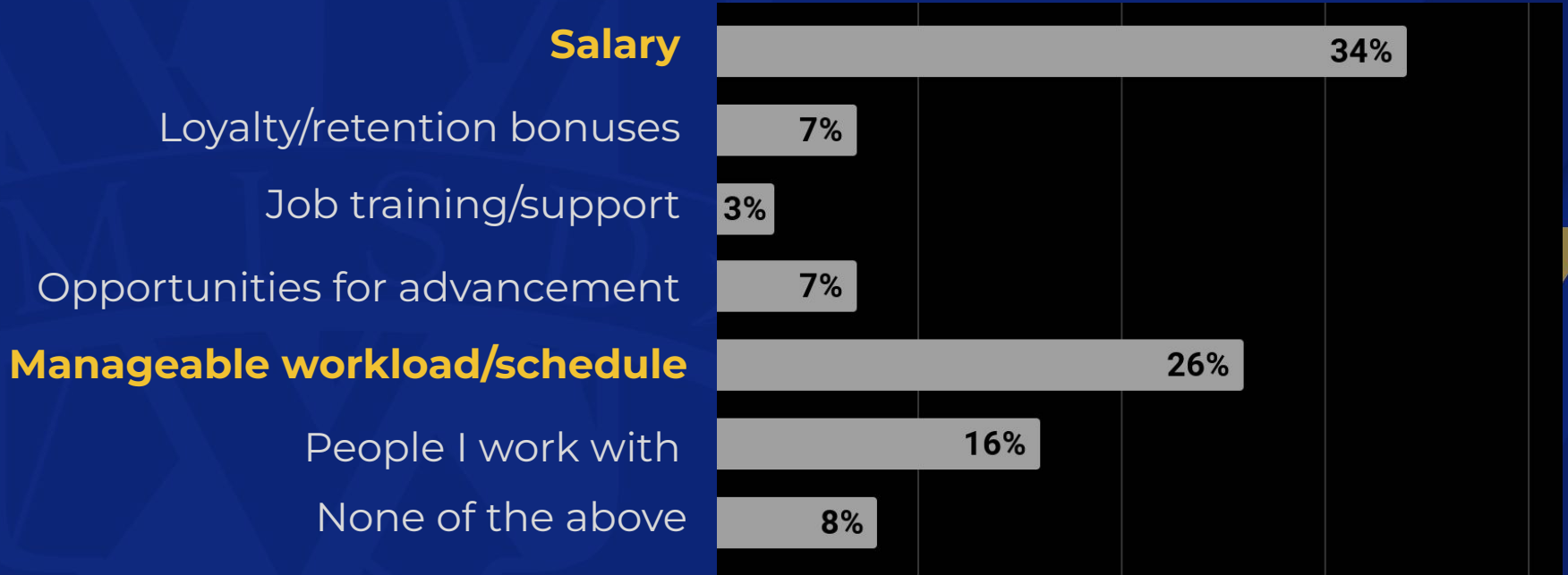
57%

Likely to leave

4%



Greatest impact on decision to stay employed with MISD? (staff only)



If MISD were to adopt a 4-day instructional week and longer school day, would it create a scheduling hardship for you and your family? (staff only)

	Yes	No	Unsure
STAFF	9%	77%	15%

Percentages rounded to nearest whole number



If the district moves to a 4-day instructional week, how likely are you to transfer your child(ren) to Mesquite ISD? (staff only)

	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Somewhat Unlikely	Very Unlikely
STAFF MEMBERS WHO HAVE CHILDREN ENROLLED IN OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS	105	150	105	396



A 4-day instructional week would impact my family in a positive manner.

	Agree (in general)	Disagree (in general)
PARENTS	78%	22%
STAFF	90%	9%
ALL	80%	20%

Percentages rounded to nearest whole number



*Interest in Friday enrichment program**

	Not Interested	Likely to Enroll at Least 1 Student	Unsure
<i>PARENTS</i>	55%	30%	15%

Percentages rounded to nearest whole number

***Survey question asked the number of children in grades preK through 5 the respondent would likely enroll in a MISD Friday enrichment program.**



4-day instructional week would include plans for a supper program and take-home meals on Thursdays. (parents only)

Additional meals would be a benefit for my family.	My family is not likely to need additional meals.	Unsure at this time
41%	39%	21%

Percentages rounded to nearest whole number



If Mesquite ISD switched to a 4-day instructional week, how likely is it that you would keep your child(ren) enrolled in Mesquite ISD?

	Very Likely	Likely	Would Most Likely Withdraw
PARENTS WHO RESPONDED	68.6% 7,204	22.9% 2,405	8.5% 892



Considering the information you have now, how supportive would you be of Mesquite ISD going to a 4-day instructional week model for the 2023-24 school year?

	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	No Preference	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
PARENTS	56%	16%	10%	9%	10%
STAFF	71%	13%	8%	5%	4%
ALL	60%	16%	9%	8%	8%

Figures rounded to nearest whole number



New Campus Schedules (DRAFT)

- 493 minutes each school day (+58 minutes)
- First Day of School = Monday, Aug. 7
- Last Day of School = Thursday, May 30 (after Memorial Day)

	Start Time	End Time
High Schools (except Vanguard)	7:30 a.m.	3:43 p.m.
Middle Schools	7:50 a.m.	4:03 p.m.
Elementary Schools	8:10 a.m.	4:23 p.m.

- Modified block schedule for high schools with some classes double blocked

