Holliston Public Schools Start Times Survey Results

December 12th, 2024

Review of Schedule Options

Schedule A

	School Start Time	School End Time
Placentino Elementary	7:30am	2:05pm
Miller Elementary	7:30am	2:08pm
Adams Middle	8:15am	2:53pm
Holliston High	8:10am	2:58pm

Schedule B

	School Start Time	School End Time
Placentino Elementary	8:50am	3:25pm
Miller Elementary	8:50am	3:28pm
Adams Middle	8:05am	2:43pm
Holliston High	8:00am	2:48pm

Schedule C

	School Start Time	School End Time
Placentino Elementary	8:35am	3:10 pm
Miller Elementary	8:35am	3:13 pm
Adams Middle	7:45am	2:23pm
Holliston High	7:50am	2:38pm

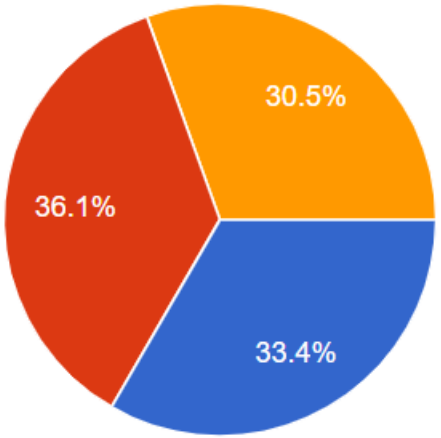
Summary Results

Disclaimer: Response counts will vary depending on number of respondents who answered or didn't answer different questions or in certain cases to ease the analysis with immaterial response drops

High Level Survey Response Information

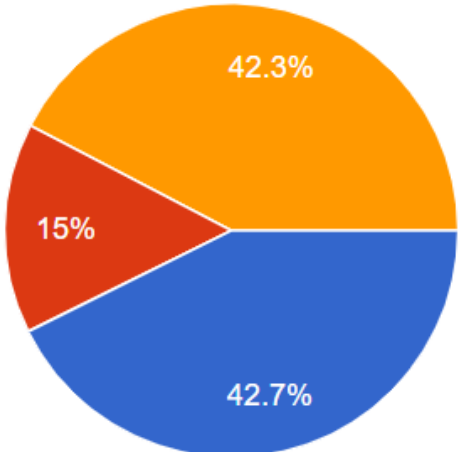
Families

- 1,007 total responses
- 3,198 recipients
- Equating to **~31%** participation (1)



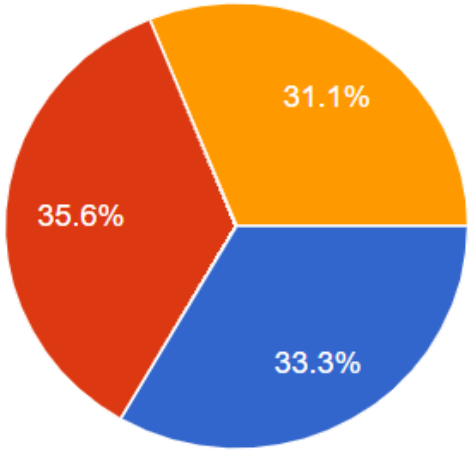
Staff

- 319 total responses
- 606 recipients
- Equating to **53%** participation



Students

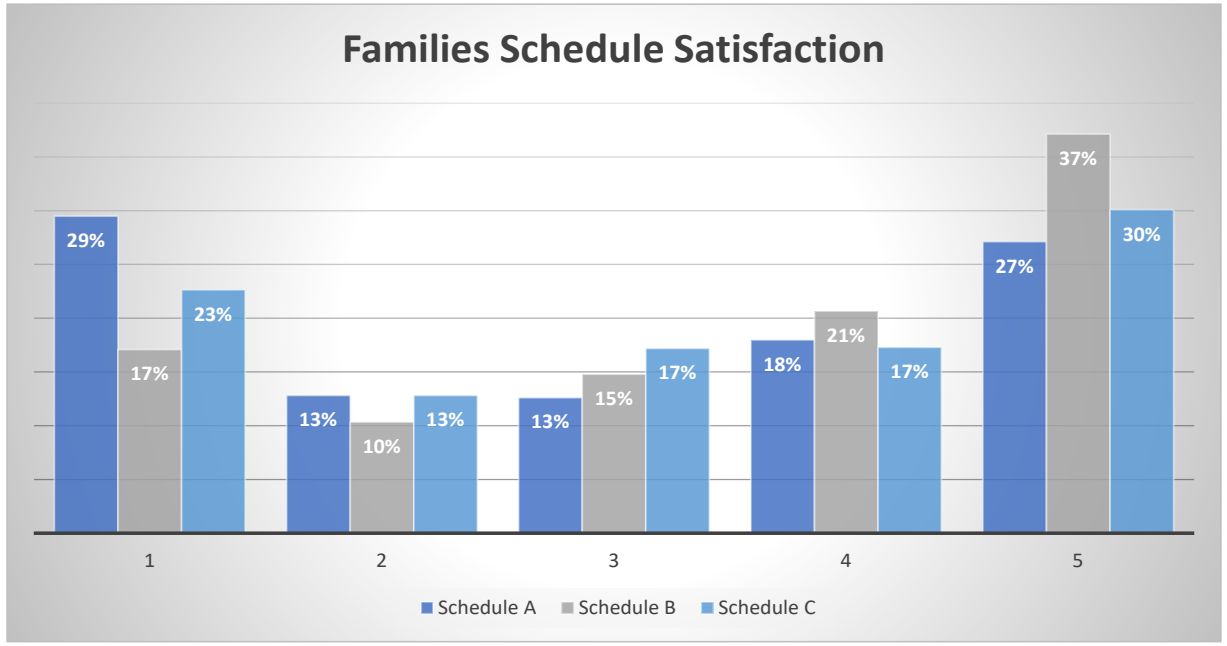
- 657 total responses
- 1,436 recipients
- Equating to **46%** participation

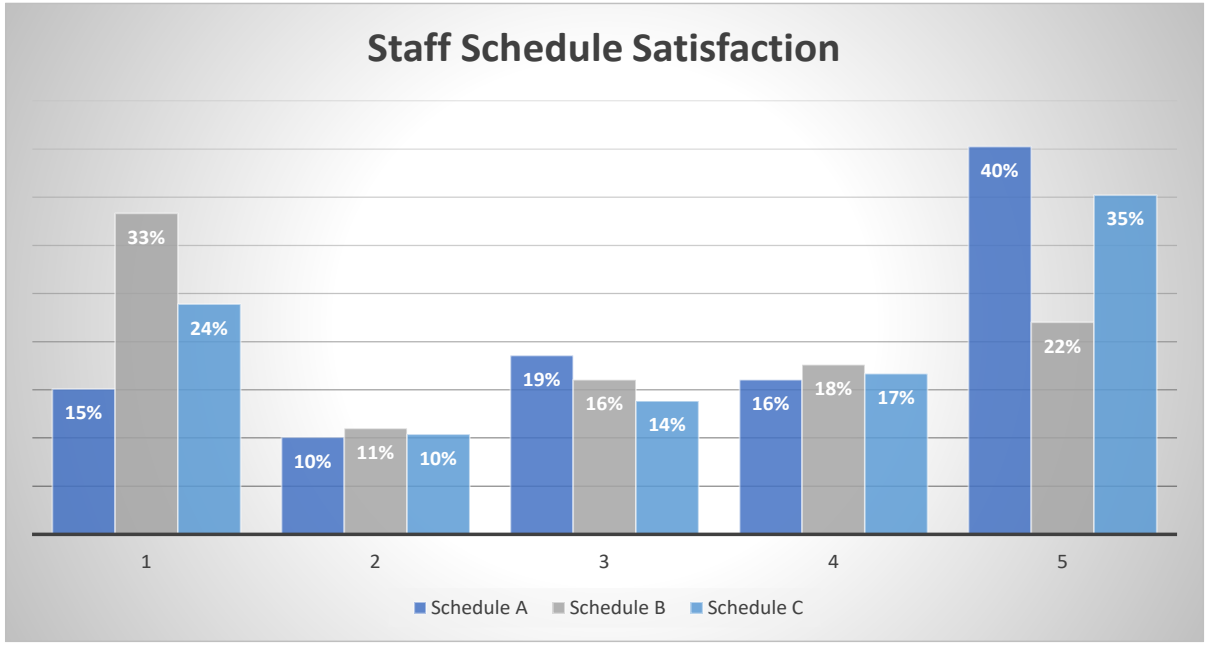


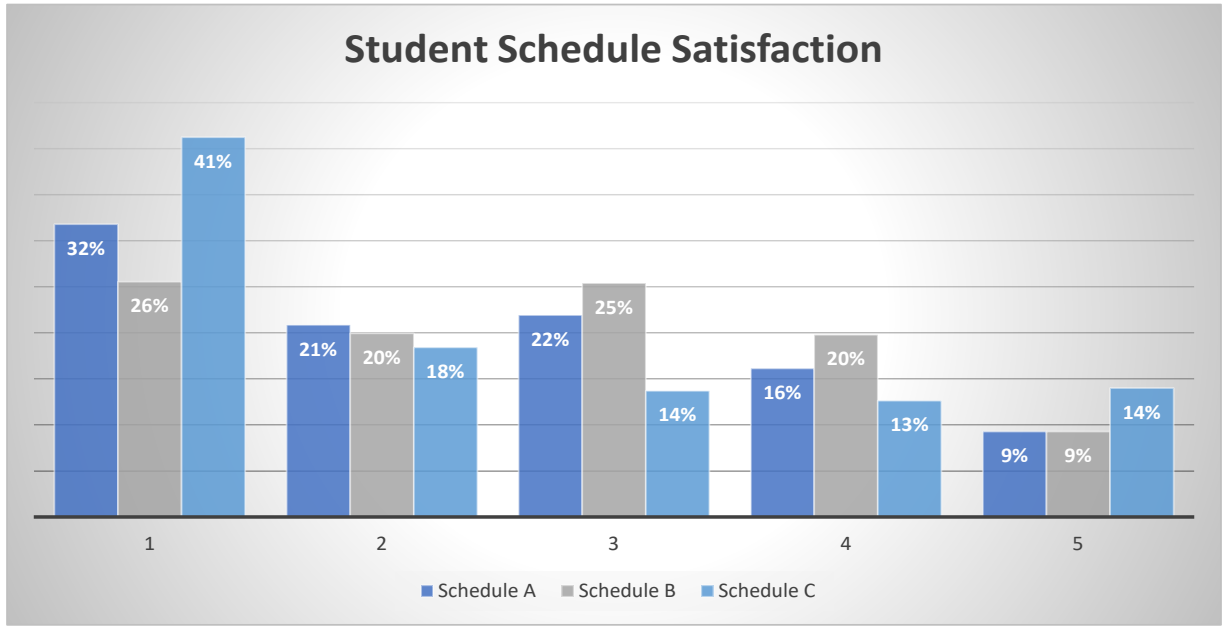
Schedule A Schedule B Schedule C

(1) Families participation rate is an estimate. Of the responses, 908 came from email address affiliated with power school accounts. Could indicate some non-family response but also a number of valid reasons for discrepancies and therefore, given ~10% rate only, included most of the responses.

Schedule Satisfaction by Survey Group





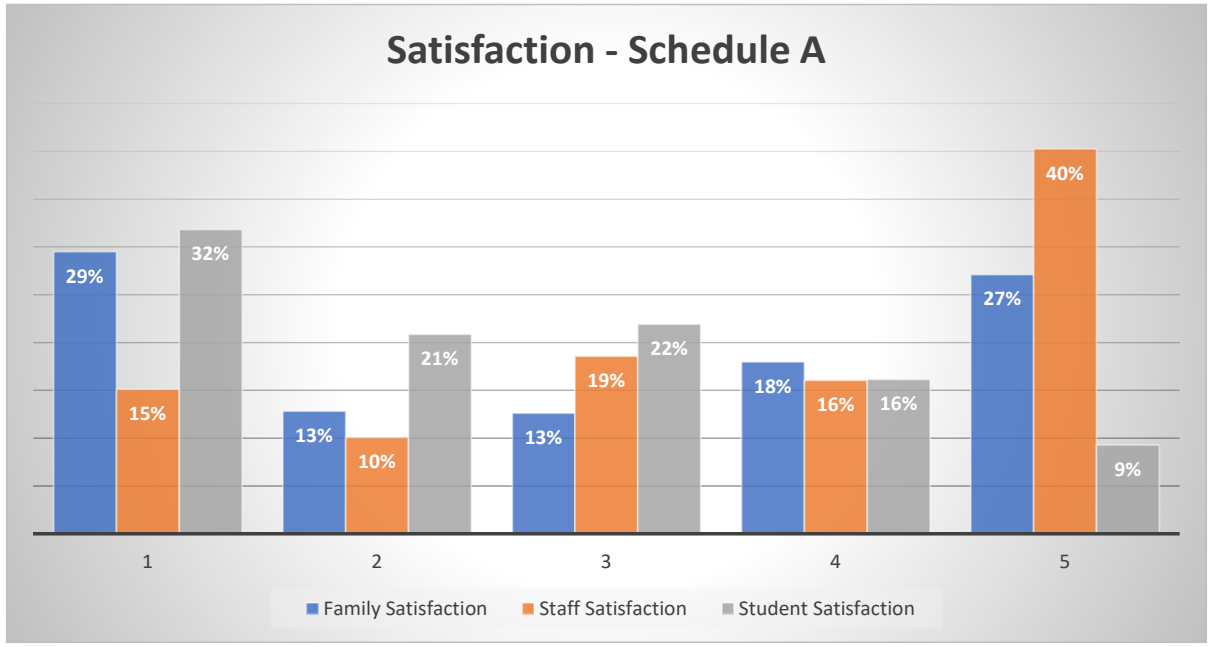


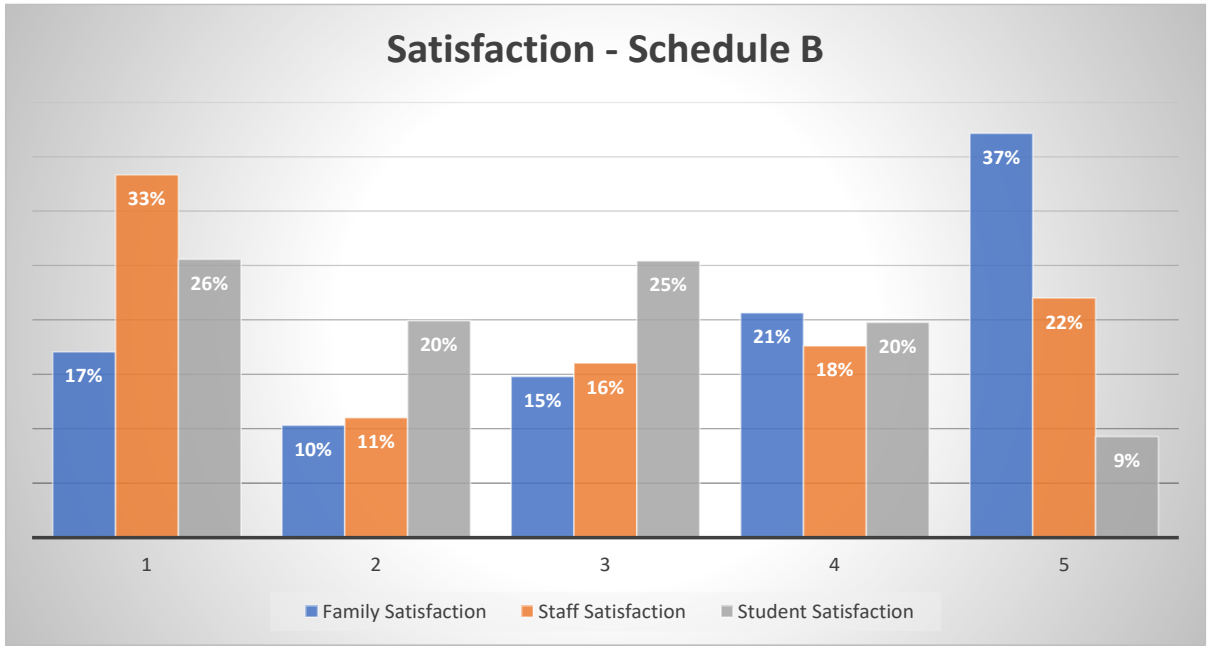
Families pref for B though A and C have support, they also have significant detractors

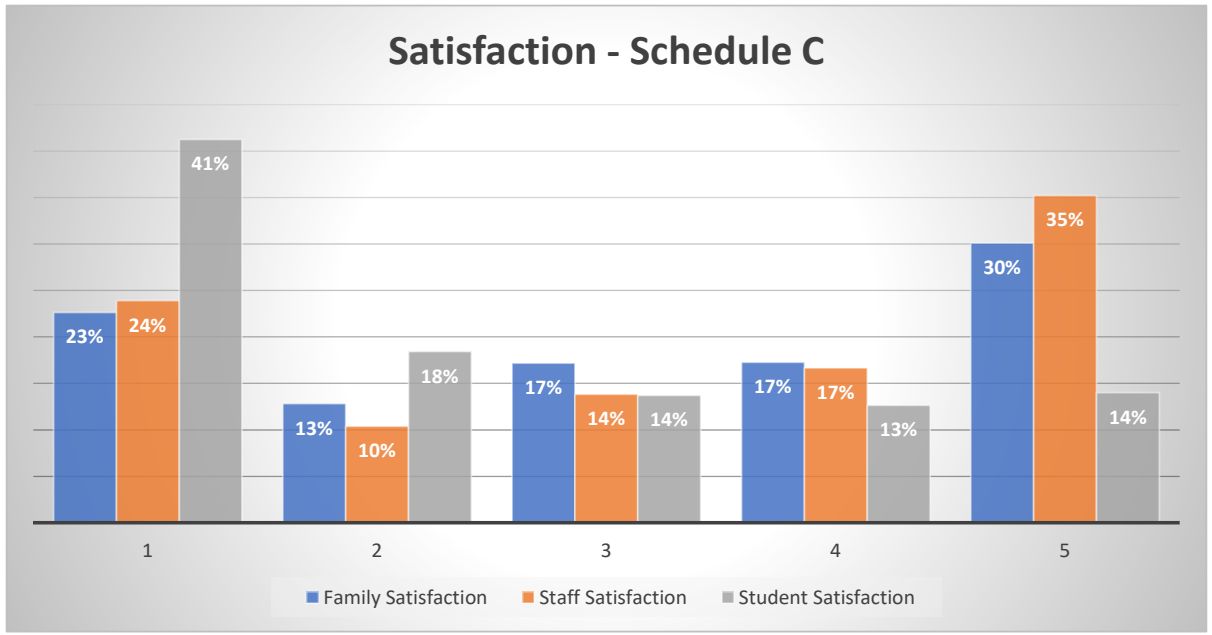
Staff clearly prefers A with C coming second but with more detractors while B has solid opposition

Students largely oppose all options with C receiving the most negative responses

Schedule Satisfaction by Schedule





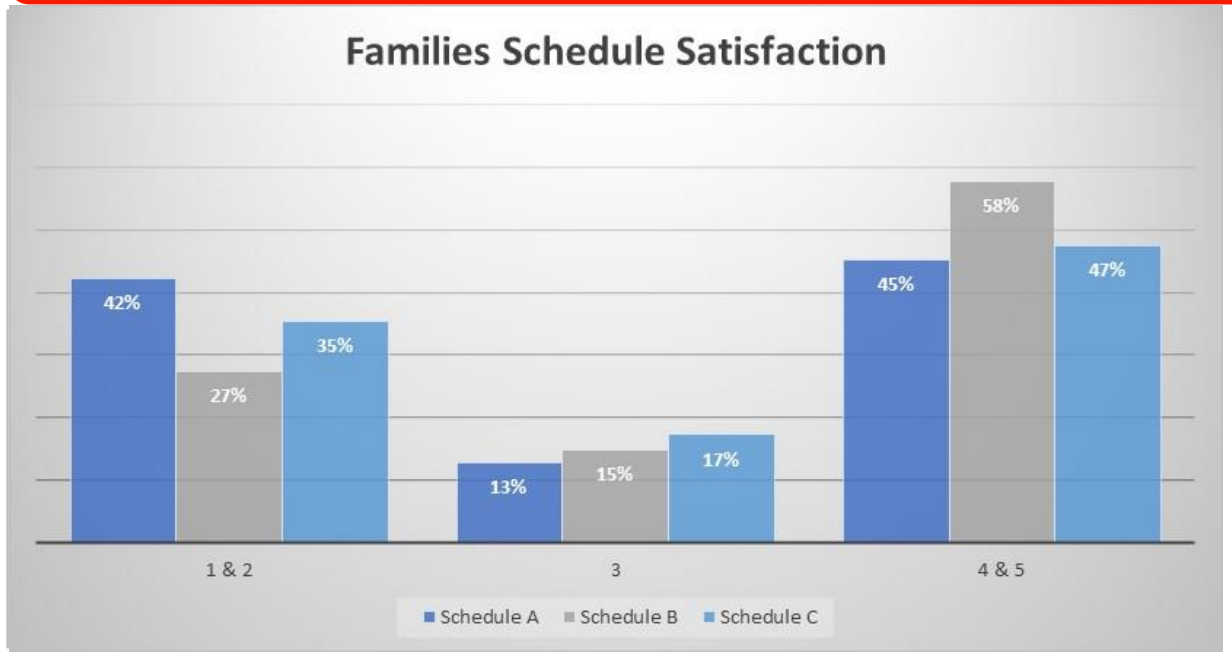


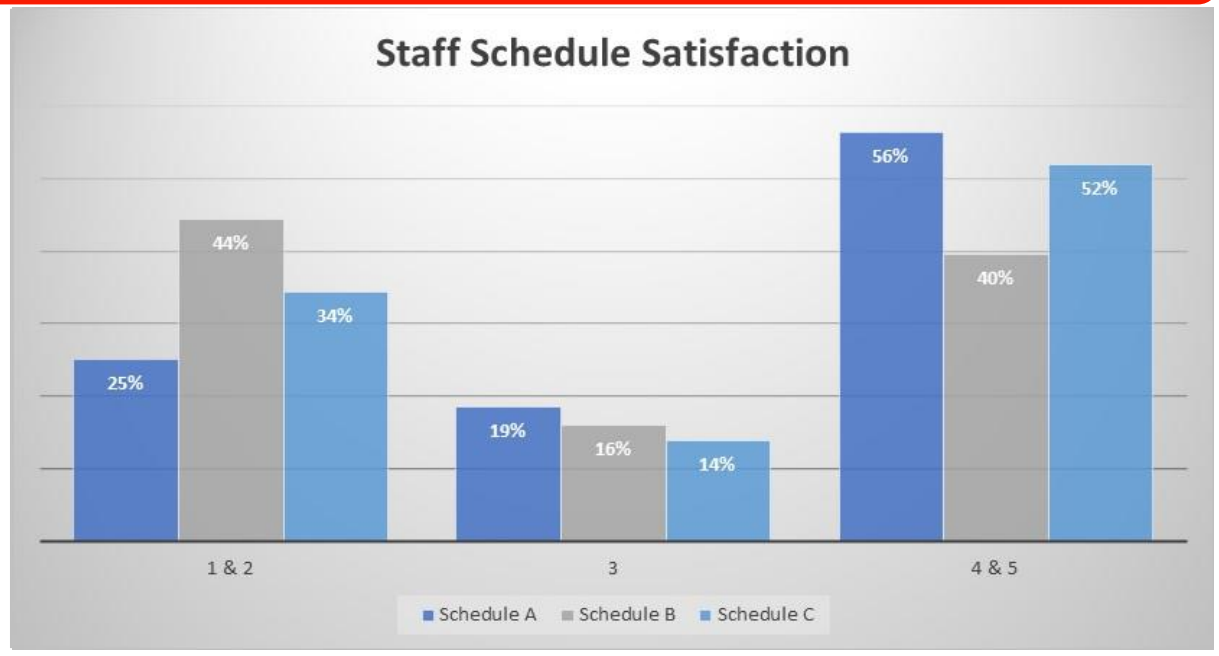
Schedule A receives the most support from Staff and most opposition from Families

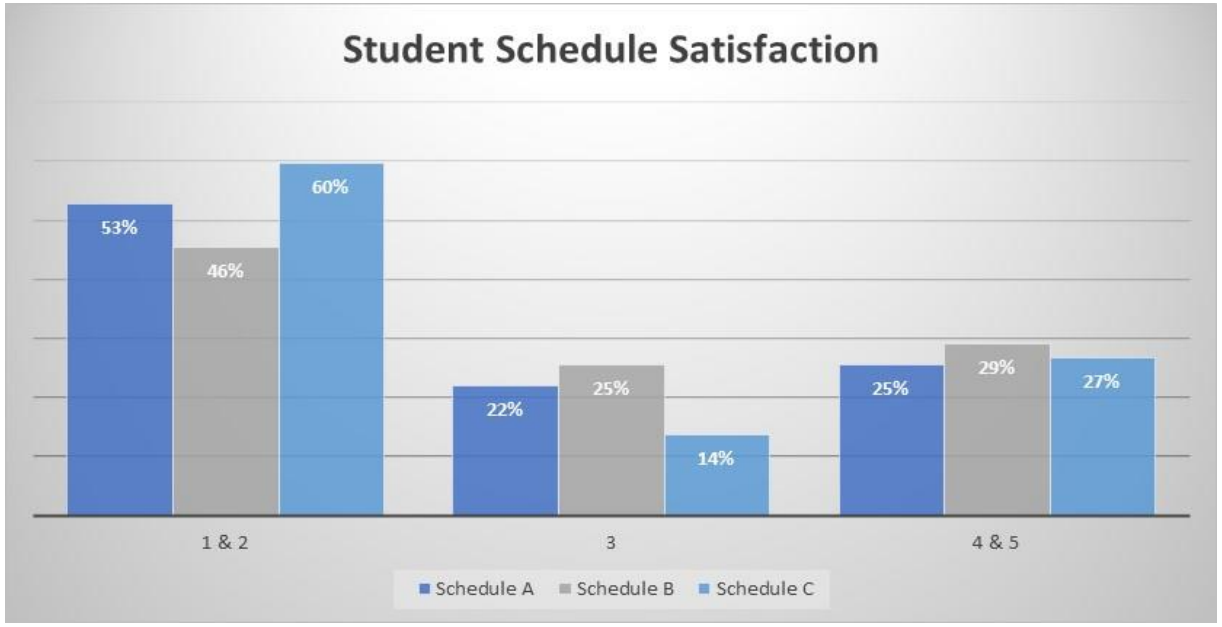
Schedule B receives the most support from Families and opposition from Staff

Schedule C is more mixed and with less extreme responses

Schedule Satisfaction by Survey Group - Consolidated





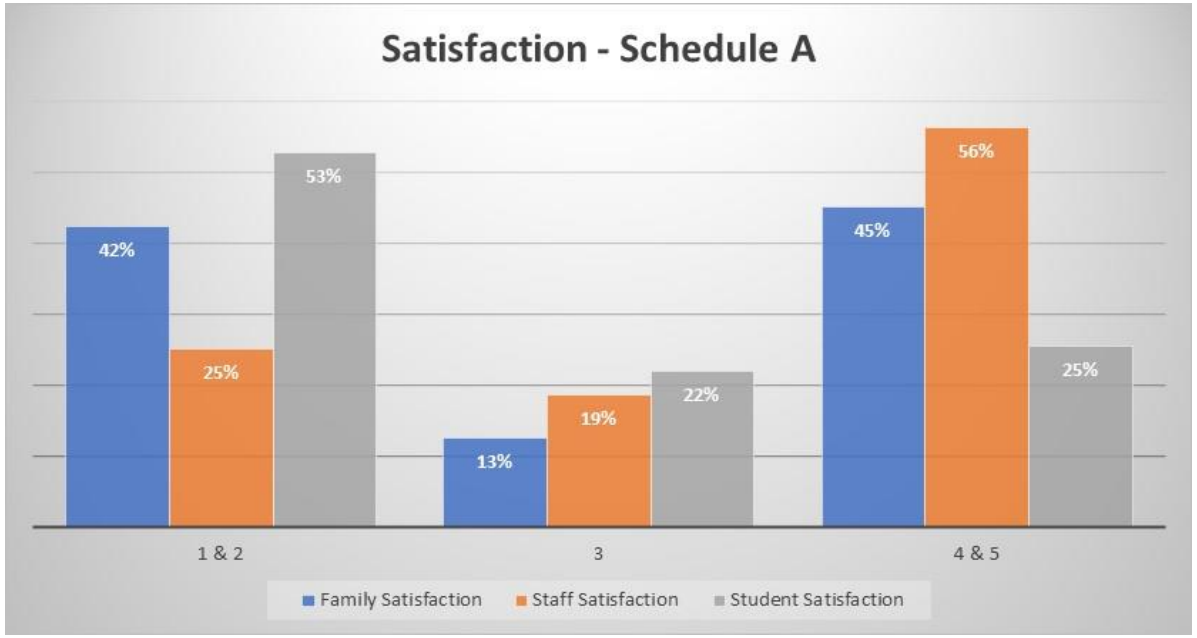


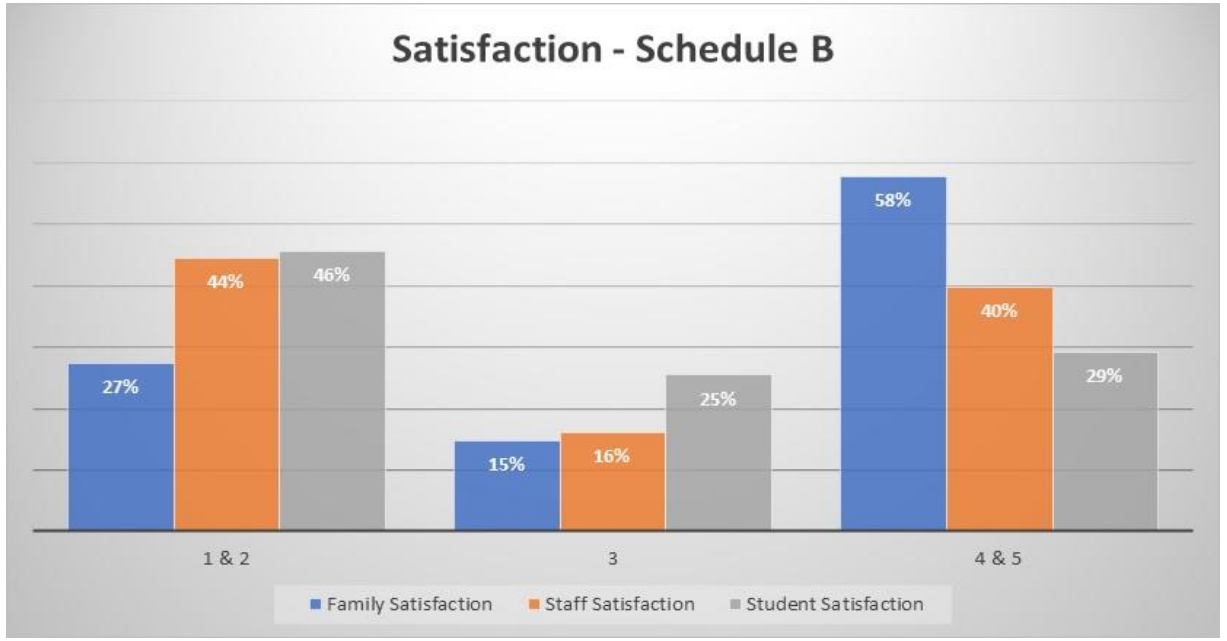
Shows more consolidated view with families pref still solidly higher for B with less detractors

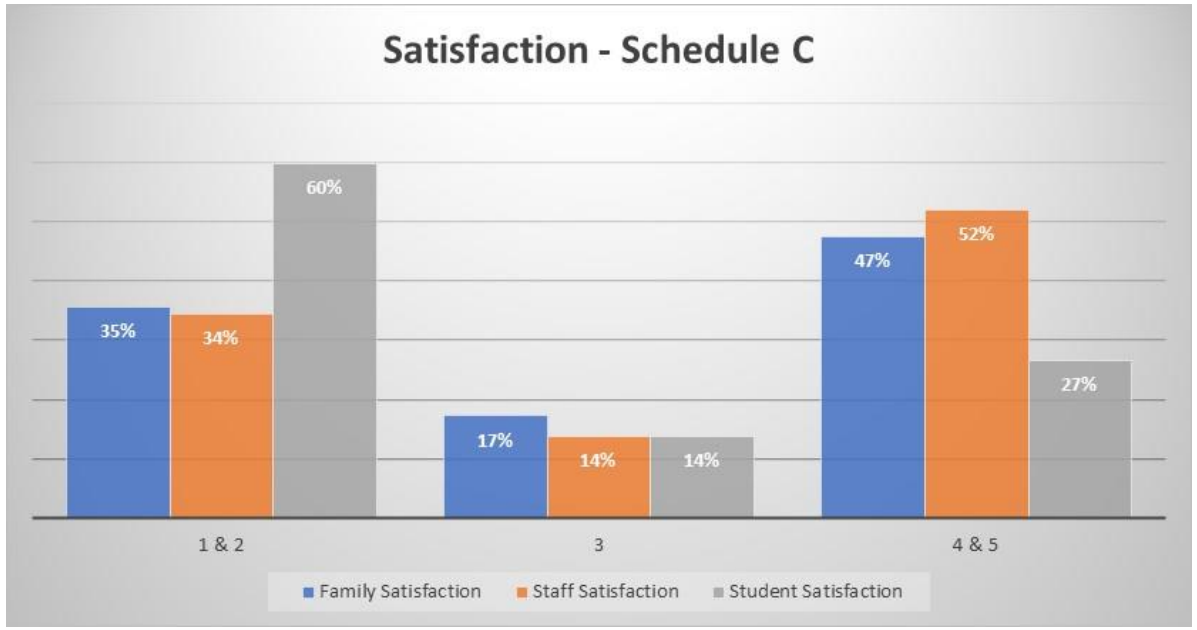
Consolidated view makes Staff opinion clear as A continues to lead with B close behind but with more detractors

Students continue to show extreme dislike for all schedules but less dislike for B

Schedule Satisfaction by Schedule - Consolidated







Consolidation more clearly shows Staff support for A while families are largely equal in both support and opposition

Schedule B is now even more clearly visible as the choice of family with staff split on both ends

Schedule C is the least favorite of Students though Staff and Families both show more support than opposition

Staff Survey Results

Staff Response Demographics

Staff Demographics Count					
Role in School	Placentino	Miller	RAMS	HHS	Total
Administrator	2	2		3	7
Other role	5	3	1	6	15
Paraprofessional	23	13	13	6	55
Support staff (e.g. adjustment counselor	13	11	8	11	43
Teacher	42	41	41	64	188
Grand Total	85	70	63	90	308

Staff Demographics Percentage					
Role in School	Placentino	Miller	RAMS	HHS	Total
Administrator	28.6%	28.6%	0.0%	42.9%	100.0%
Other role	33.3%	20.0%	6.7%	40.0%	100.0%
Paraprofessional	41.8%	23.6%	23.6%	10.9%	100.0%
Support staff (e.g. adjustment co	30.2%	25.6%	18.6%	25.6%	100.0%
Teacher	22.3%	21.8%	21.8%	34.0%	100.0%
Grand Total	27.6%	22.7%	20.5%	29.2%	100.0%

Staff Options Rating – By School

Please indicate your current school.	(All)		
Role in School	Option A	Option B	Option C
Administrator	3.9	2.3	3.0
Other role	3.9	3.3	3.3
Paraprofessional	3.0	2.9	3.3
Support staff (e.g. adjustment counselo	3.8	2.7	3.2
Teacher	3.6	2.8	3.3
Grand Total	**3.6**	2.8	3.3

Paraprofessionals rank Option A weaker than most other staff especially at Placentino which the discrepancy is significant

Miller Staff have a very strong and across the board preference for Option A

Option C is ranked higher by teachers and other educators at the High School and RAMS while RAMS dislikes A more.

Please indicate your current school.	Placentino		
Role in School	Option A	Option B	Option C
Administrator	4.0	1.5	2.5
Other role	3.4	3.0	3.8
Paraprofessional	2.3	3.6	3.7
Support staff (e.g. adjustment counselo	4.1	2.5	3.2
Teacher	4.0	2.5	3.4
Grand Total	**3.5**	2.8	3.4

Please indicate your current school.	Miller		
Role in School	Option A	Option B	Option C
Administrator	4.5	1.5	2.0
Other role	4.7	1.0	1.0
Paraprofessional	4.5	1.2	1.8
Support staff (e.g. adjustment counselor	4.8	1.0	1.5
Teacher	4.9	1.2	1.6
Grand Total	**4.8**	1.2	1.6

Please indicate your current school.	RAMS		
Role in School	Option A	Option B	Option C
Administrator			
Other role	4.0	5.0	3.0
Paraprofessional	2.5	3.3	3.9
Support staff (e.g. adjustment counselo	2.6	4.0	4.4
Teacher	2.7	3.7	3.9
Grand Total	2.7	3.7	**4.0**

Please indicate your current school.	HHS		
Role in School	Option A	Option B	Option C
Administrator	4.3	3.3	3.7
Other role	4.2	4.3	3.8
Paraprofessional	3.2	3.7	3.5
Support staff (e.g. adjustment counselor	3.1	3.8	4.3
Teacher	3.3	3.7	4.1
Grand Total	3.3	3.7	**4.0**

Staff Choice – By School

Staff		(All)
Row Labels	Top Choice	Responses
Schedule A	42.7%	131
Schedule B	15.0%	46
Schedule C	42.3%	130
Grand Total	100.0%	307

Overall, Staff evenly split between A & C

Miller staff continue to demonstrate overwhelming support for A

RAMS & HHS demonstrate solid support for C while Placentino plurality supports A

Staff		Placentino
Row Labels	Top Choice	Responses
Schedule A	**48.8%**	**39**
Schedule B	13.8%	11
Schedule C	37.5%	30
Grand Total	100.0%	80

Staff		Miller
Row Labels	Top Choice	Responses
Schedule A	97.1%	67
Schedule B	0.0%	-
Schedule C	2.9%	2
Grand Total	100.0%	69

Staff		RAMS
Row Labels	Top Choice	Responses
Schedule A	5.0%	3
Schedule B	30.0%	18
Schedule C	**65.0%**	**39**
Grand Total	100.0%	60

Staff		HHS
Row Labels	Top Choice	Responses
Schedule A	20.7%	18
Schedule B	18.4%	16
Schedule C	**60.9%**	**53**
Grand Total	100.0%	87

Staff Representative Comments (1)

While a later start time might allow children to sleep a bit longer, it does not address the broader challenge of ensuring their days are balanced and productive. In fact, it could reduce valuable time in the afternoons and evenings, affecting both academic and extracurricular activities.

Getting out later has a very negative impact on my life and personal health. There is a good chance I will seek other employment opportunities if the end of school time were to increase.

I understand the studies in which middle school and high school students need more sleep, however the later end times would impact on their ability to socialize and connect with others after school. This would also be bad for the social emotional health of our students. Students stress about not having enough homework time as it is. Elementary students have their commitments as well, but they are not on the same scale as our teens to young adults.

Thank you for presenting HHS options that end earlier than 3pm. This is best for students and best for staff at HHS. I know many might prefer an even earlier start time but I believe Schedule A is a nice balance of keeping a relatively later wake-up time for high schoolers while still ending before 3pm.

Staff Representative Comments (2)

Young Kids Are More Productive in the Morning: Research and experience consistently show that younger children are most alert and proactive during the early hours of the day. Delaying their start time could shift their most effective learning period to later in the morning, which might hinder their ability to fully engage and absorb material as their energy naturally declines in the afternoon.

Miller teachers had their schedules changed most recently. It is truly unfair to adjust our schedules once again. Option A offers the most bang for the buck based on what the four administrators said. As a Miller teacher, our students have had no issues transitioning to the 730 time. They are awake and ready to learn and need to play outdoors after school.

Students at Miller School have demonstrated the ability to learn at our current start time. We know that some parents/students do not "prefer" an early time, but students at this age learn best at the early time we currently have in our schedule.

I am curious why we need to change the schedules.

Families Survey Results

Families Choice – By School

Families		(All)
Row Labels	Top Choice	Count
Schedule A	33.3%	333
Schedule B	**36.1%**	361
Schedule C	30.6%	306
Grand Total	100.0%	1,000

School Representation Breakdown	Count	%
Placentino	364	23.3%
Miller	477	30.5%
RAMS	360	23.0%
HHS	362	23.2%
Total	1,563	100.0%

Families	Placentino	(All)
Row Labels	Top Choice	Count
Schedule A	**13.7%**	50
Schedule B	**43.7%**	159
Schedule C	42.6%	155
Grand Total	100.0%	364

Families	Miller	(All)
Row Labels	Top Choice	Count
Schedule A	31.0%	148
Schedule B	**29.4%**	140
Schedule C	**39.6%**	189
Grand Total	100.0%	477

Families	Adams	(All)
Row Labels	Top Choice	Count
Schedule A	**39.4%**	142
Schedule B	35.6%	128
Schedule C	**25.0%**	90
Grand Total	100.0%	360

Families	HHS	(All)
Row Labels	Top Choice	Count
Schedule A	**45.9%**	166
Schedule B	33.1%	120
Schedule C	**21.0%**	76
Grand Total	100.0%	362

Families Choice – By School

Family Schedule Choice	Schedule A	Schedule B	Schedule C	Grand Total
Holliston High School	50.3%	30.7%	19.0%	179
Miller Elementary School, Placentino Elementary School	15.1%	32.5%	52.4%	166
Placentino Elementary School	8.1%	60.7%	31.1%	135
Miller Elementary School	44.1%	22.0%	33.9%	118
Adams Middle School, Miller Elementary School	42.3%	27.0%	30.6%	111
Holliston High School, Adams Middle School	47.2%	37.0%	15.7%	108
Adams Middle School	39.0%	46.8%	14.3%	77
Holliston High School, Miller Elementary School	31.4%	37.1%	31.4%	35
Adams Middle School, Placentino Elementary School	18.2%	31.8%	50.0%	22
Holliston High School, Adams Middle School, Miller Elementary School	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	21
Adams Middle School, Miller Elementary School, Placentino Elementary School	14.3%	50.0%	35.7%	14
Holliston High School, Adams Middle School, Miller Elementary School, Placentino Elementary School	62.5%	0.0%	37.5%	8
Holliston High School, Miller Elementary School, Placentino Elementary School	12.5%	50.0%	37.5%	8
Holliston High School, Placentino Elementary School	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	6
Holliston High School, Adams Middle School, Placentino Elementary School	0.0%	60.0%	40.0%	5
Grand Total	**33.4%**	**36.1%**	**30.5%**	**1,013**

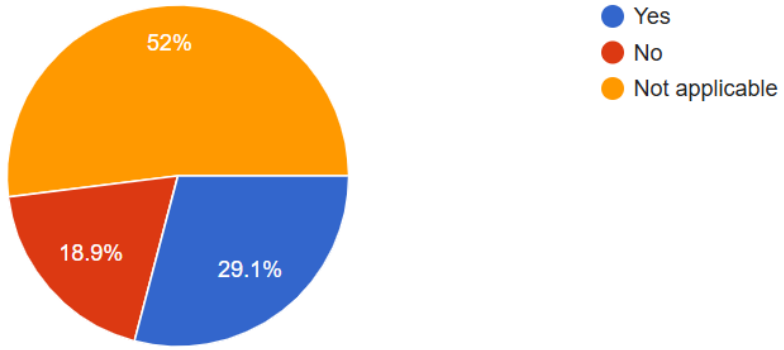
Families Rating Average by Schools with Students Enrolled	Schedule A	Schedule B	Schedule C	Grand Total
Holliston High School	4.0	3.5	2.7	182
Miller Elementary School, Placentino Elementary School	2.4	3.8	4.1	166
Placentino Elementary School	1.9	4.1	3.8	135
Miller Elementary School	3.1	3.0	3.3	120
Adams Middle School, Miller Elementary School	3.0	2.9	2.9	111
Holliston High School, Adams Middle School	3.8	3.6	2.5	109
Adams Middle School	3.6	3.8	2.6	77
Holliston High School, Miller Elementary School	2.9	3.4	3.0	35
Adams Middle School, Placentino Elementary School	2.0	3.5	3.5	22
Holliston High School, Adams Middle School, Miller Elementary School	2.5	3.3	3.2	22
Adams Middle School, Miller Elementary School, Placentino Elementary School	2.8	3.3	3.1	14
Holliston High School, Adams Middle School, Miller Elementary School, Placentino Elementary School	3.4	2.1	2.9	8
Holliston High School, Miller Elementary School, Placentino Elementary School	2.8	3.9	3.9	8
Holliston High School, Placentino Elementary School	2.7	3.7	3.3	6
Holliston High School, Adams Middle School, Placentino Elementary School	2.0	4.0	3.2	5
Grand Total	**3.0**	**3.5**	**3.2**	**1,013**

Other Families Data

Families Ranking by School				
School	Option A	Option B	Option C	Count
Placentino	2.2	3.8	3.8	364
Miller	2.7	3.3	3.4	480
RAMS	3.3	3.3	2.8	362
HHS	3.6	3.5	2.7	367
Grand Total	3.0	**3.5**	3.2	1,007

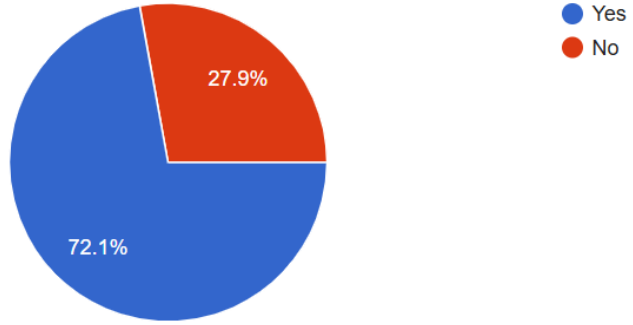
Schedule B and C have the Middle and High School students dismissing first. With these options would you choose to have a Middle School or High School student help with after school child care?

1,014 responses



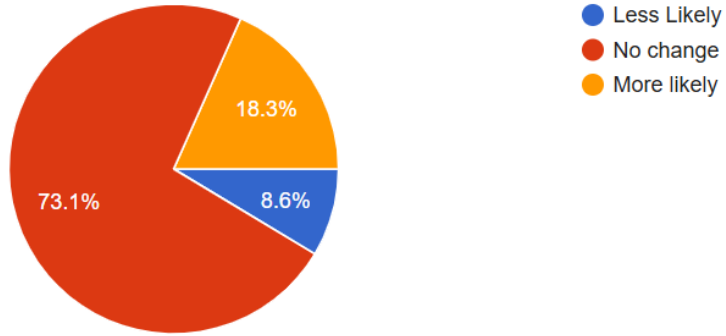
Do your children currently take the bus to/from school?

1,012 responses



Will a schedule change make it more or less likely that they will ride the bus next year?

1,010 responses



Family Representative Comments (1)

K-2 students are too young to be waiting for the bus in winter when it's freezing and dark out in order to get to school for 7:30

Studies have shown younger kids should start earlier than older kids.

Adjusting by 10 minutes from the current approach on either end of the day won't make too much of a difference. but when you head into the half hour change on the early side it would impact our morning routine quite a bit.

More sleep please! The 7.30 start time is killing us! And we need the older siblings home first!

Dismissal around 3pm or earlier significantly impacts parents with full time jobs and will require additional childcare and more financial strain.

Family Representative Comments (2)

I love that all the options pool Placentino and Miller school students and RAMS and High School students together. This is a significant improvement from previous versions.

With all three of the proposed start times you are failing to see the impact on the length of time children will be stuck sitting on a school bus to and from school as well as the impact of traffic for drop off and pick up at the Placentino/Miller complex.

An earlier start time would help with work commutes. The schedule would take adjusting but all new schedules do. We'd get there.

I would want to keep the purpose of a later start time for HS in mind per all the work done a few years ago.

Option 1 would cause significant stress on our family logistically and financially

Student Survey Results

Student Rankings and Preference

Student Ranking by Grade					
Grade	**Schedule A**	**Schedule B**	**Schedule C**	**Count**	**%**
6th	2.9	2.9	2.4	36	5.5%
7th	2.6	2.5	2.4	85	13.0%
8th	2.5	2.7	2.2	105	16.0%
9th	2.5	2.5	2.0	126	19.2%
10th	2.3	2.7	2.4	116	17.7%
11th	2.5	2.8	2.8	139	21.2%
12th	2.6	2.8	2.7	45	6.9%
12+	4.3	4.3	3.3	3	0.5%
Grand Total	2.5	**2.7**	2.4	655	100.0%

Student Option Preference by Grade					
Grade	**Schedule A**	**Schedule B**	**Schedule C**	**Count**	**%**
6th	44.4%	27.8%	27.8%	36	5.5%
7th	39.8%	22.9%	37.3%	85	13.0%
8th	37.1%	36.2%	26.7%	105	16.0%
9th	42.7%	37.1%	20.2%	126	19.2%
10th	25.2%	39.8%	35.0%	116	17.7%
11th	22.1%	41.2%	36.6%	139	21.2%
12th	30.2%	34.9%	34.9%	45	6.9%
12+	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	3	0.5%
Grand Total	33.4%	**35.7%**	30.9%	655	100.0%

Student Representative Comments (1)

I don't understand why you would make the day longer.

It affects school of choice students more then anyone

I believe starting earlier will benefit students by giving them a little more time for all the many responsibilities after school like homework, work, and sports. Thanks for the consideration!

School days that end after 2:50 make it very hard to get ready for co-op sports in other towns.

Student Representative Comments (2)

I will adjust my bedtime according to when school starts.

The swim team would not be able to make it to school on time

I say we keep it the same

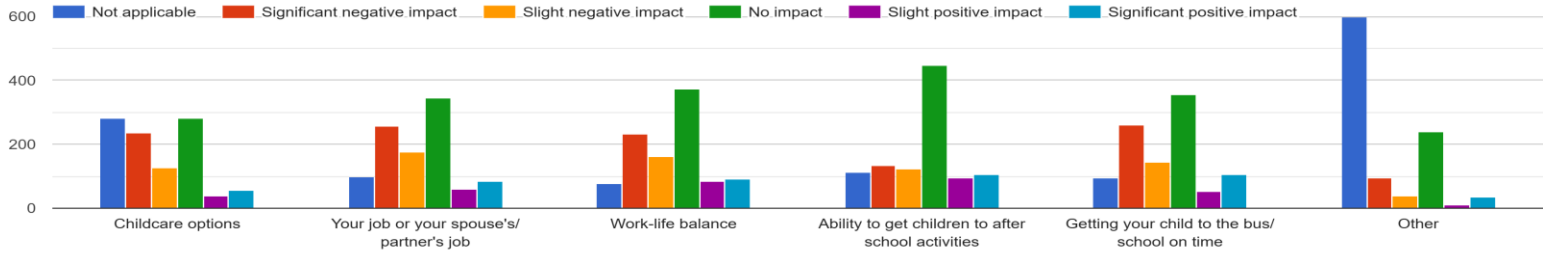
If school ended any later than it does now, I would be forced to quit my job, given the very little time I have to arrive at my 3 p.m. shifts. I am very much opposed to this because I need a job to pay off my car and its insurance and to save money for college.

Additional Data / Details

Impact Results – Schedule A

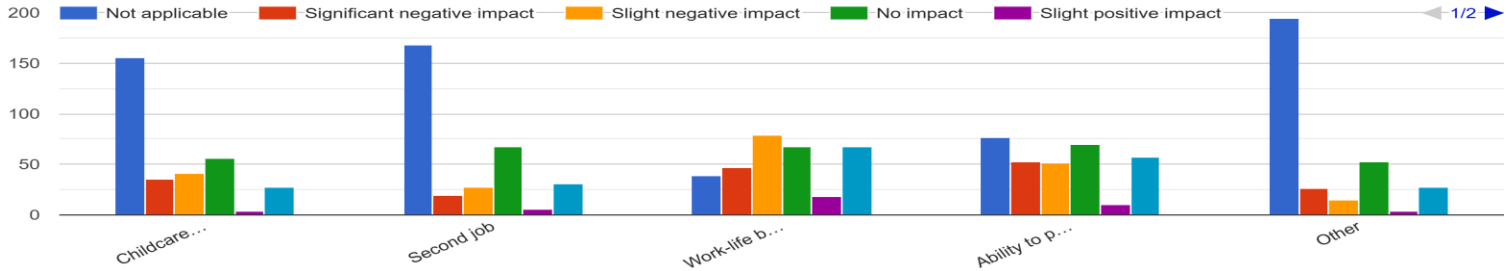
Families

How much would this proposed schedule impact the following areas for you? *For this survey, please consider a significant negative impact as meaning you "will likely incur a financial or logistical impact." Please consider a slight negative impact as "not desirable, but I can make it work."



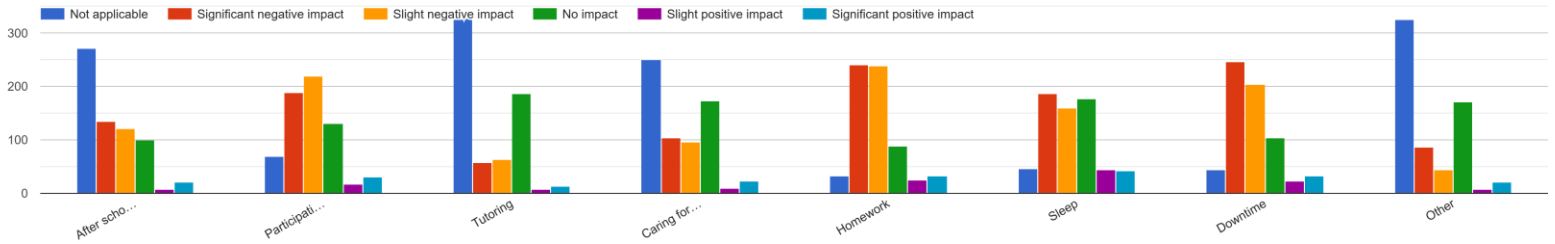
Staff

How much would this proposed schedule impact the following areas for you? *For this survey, please consider a significant negative impact as meaning you "will likely incur a financial or logi... a slight negative impact as "not desirable, but I can make it work."



Students

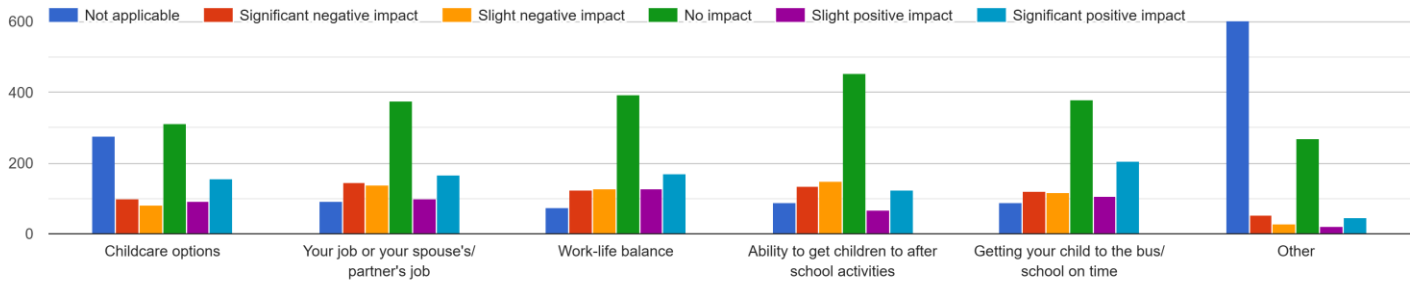
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Impact Results – Schedule B

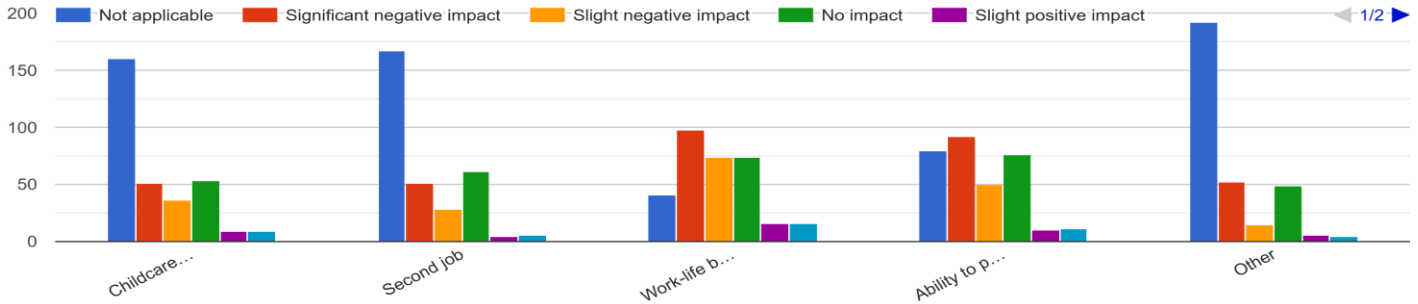
Families

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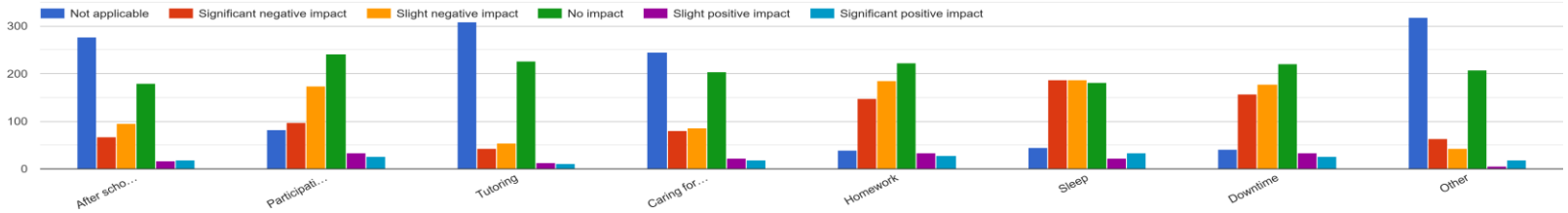
Staff

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Students

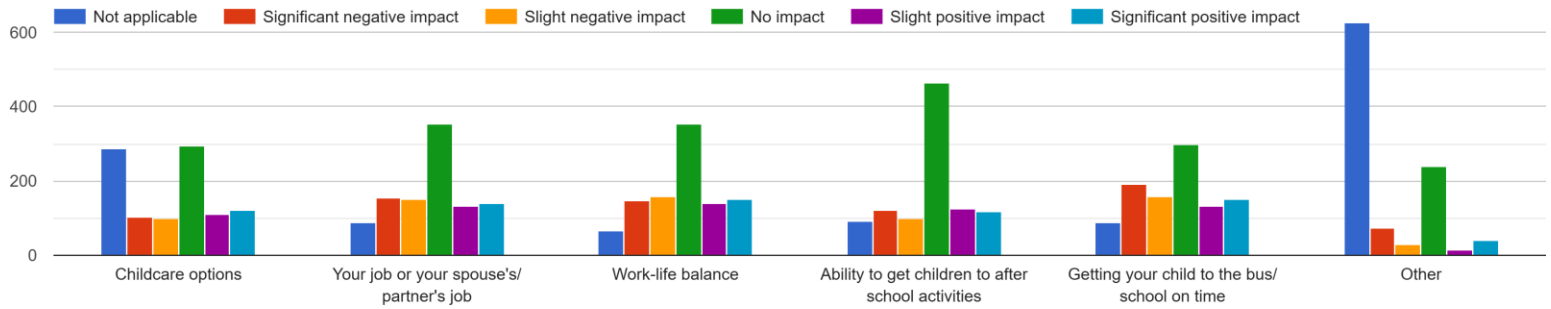
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Satisfaction Level – Schedule C

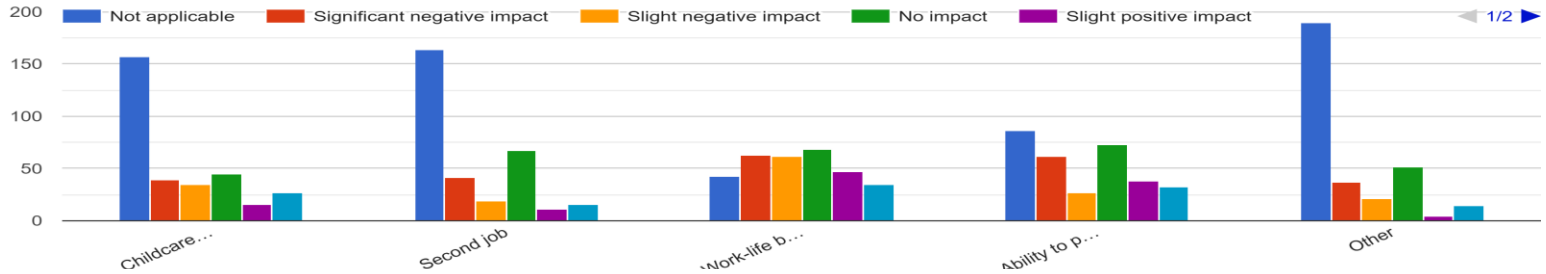
Families

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