

4-day School Week Update

Was there an interest?

Before using time and resources to research a 4-day week extensively, we wanted to survey our parents, staff, and students to determine if there was enough interest. Surveys closed on February 19th. Many of you provided great feedback about your reasons for or against a 4-day week; others remain undecided and seek more information before making a decision.

What were the survey results?

You will find more survey results later in this report, but in summary, **we heard from 1,091 parents, guardians, staff, and students, and most respondents favored a 4-day school week.** We also checked the submissions to ensure our school population was well-represented across multiple demographic points.

Is Snyder ISD going to switch to a 4-day week?

No decision has been made at this time as we are in the information-gathering stage. We do not take this decision lightly, and, like you, we need many questions answered. However, because the majority of those who responded to the survey indicated they were in favor of looking into a 4-day school week, we will **move into the next phase of our research.**

What's next?

- **Hold calendar committee meetings:** These troubleshooting meetings include representatives from each department and campus at Snyder ISD. Our goal is to uncover internal issues in each department and devise solutions.
- **Host Community resource discussion groups:** We will meet with community organizations, childcare centers, and churches to identify resources and opportunities for students
- **Further research and analyze districts with a 4-day school week:** Not only will we continue speaking with other school districts, but we will also research academic performance, recruitment and retention, absences, and overall performance data.
- **Seek guidance and resources from professional organizations:** As the landscape of education is changing, and more school districts have implemented or are considering a 4-day school week, resources and best practices are available from organizations such as the Texas Association of School Administrators, Texas Association of School Boards, and others.
- **Provide more opportunities for questions and answers:** We will continue to listen to our stakeholders and welcome your feedback. We will compile a Q&A list to share with our community along the way—email questions to questions@snyderisd.net.

4-day School Week Exploration Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who responded to the recent surveys about the possibility of a 4-day school week at Snyder ISD. Many of you provided great feedback about your reasons for or against a 4-day week; others remain undecided and seek more information before making a decision.

Before spending significant time researching options for a 4-day week, we wanted to survey our parents, staff, and students to determine if there was enough interest. Below is a summary of the responses.

Parents/Guardians



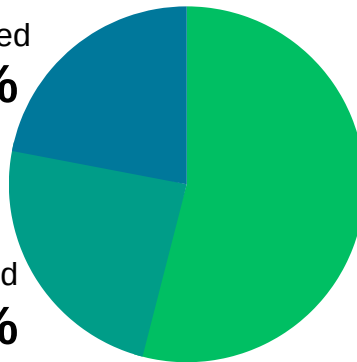
652

surveys completed

Opposed/Strongly Opposed
22%

Undecided
24%

Favor/Strongly Favor
54%



52%

qualify for free or reduced lunch



26%

children ride the bus to/from school



Top Concerns

- Childcare
- Athletic/Extracurricular activities
- Length of the school day/year
- Source of food for those in need

5% listed source of food for their family as a concern



Top Benefits

- More family time
- Staff recruitment and retention
- Appointments can be made on non-school days
- More time for staff collaboration in preparing for high-quality instruction



Childcare for the 5th day:

- 17% unsure about childcare
- 17% would alter their work schedule
- 10% would use paid childcare
- The remaining 56% listed that no childcare was needed or that the child would stay with a family member or a friend.

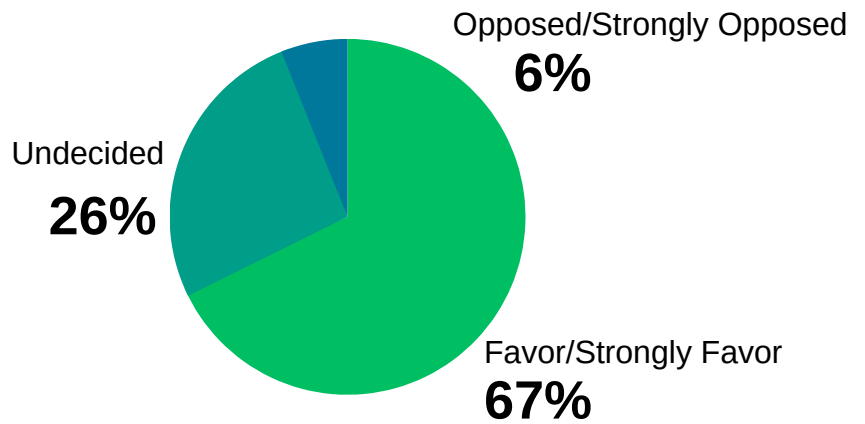


Staff



257

surveys completed



Top Concerns

- Length of the school day/year
- Athletic/Extracurricular activities
- Source of food for those in need
- Ability to fulfill all work duties
- Childcare



Top Benefits

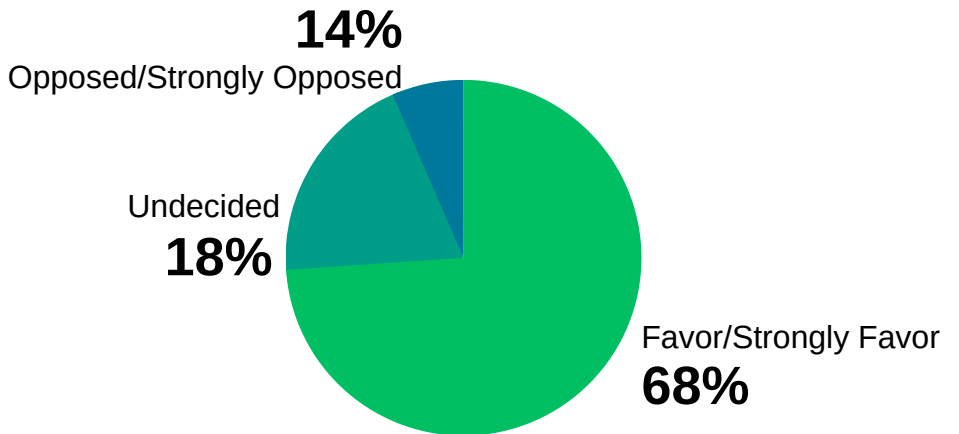
- Staff recruitment and retention
- Improved attendance
- Additional day for older students to work/volunteer
- Appointments on non-school days
- More time for staff collaboration in preparing for high-quality instruction

Students (6th-12th grades)



182

surveys completed



Top Concerns

- Length of the school day/year
- Extracurricular activities
- Source of food for those in need



Top Benefits

- Additional day for older students to work/volunteer
- Appointments on non-school days
- Improved attendance
- Longer weekend
- More family time
- Recruit & retain quality staff



History ---

Over the past decade, some school districts have explored and transitioned to a 4-day school week. Since the beginning of the school year, the Snyder ISD Board of Trustees and Superintendent have been asked about exploring this as an option for Snyder ISD. During the week of February 7th, Superintendent Bob Rauch asked the District Education Improvement Committee (comprised of teachers, parents, and community members) and the Snyder ISD Board of Trustees if the possibility of a 4-day week was worth exploring. Based on their feedback, we began researching the pros and cons of implementing a 4-day school week at Snyder ISD.

A survey was released on Monday, February 13th, to gather input from parents, guardians, staff, and 6th-12th grade students. The survey closed on Sunday, February 19th, at 11:59 pm.

The motivation for researching a 4-day school week includes:



recruiting and retaining quality staff



improved attendance during the four school days



time for staff planning and collaboration for high-quality instruction



increased quality time for families

Based on the survey results, we will continue to research this as a possible option for Snyder ISD. Visit www.snyderisd.net/fourday for more information.