

# PLAINS ISD

811 Cowboy Way • P.O. Box 479 • Plains, TX 79355  
(806) 456 -7401 Fax (806) 456 – 4325  
www.plainsisd.net



Hello Everyone!

It is amazing how fast this year has gone! It is already April and time is running out, yet we have so much more to do. I have reminded your kids that we need two more months of the same effort that they have already given us. It is not time to start celebrating Summer break just yet!

I wanted to let you know some information about the 2023-2024 Plains ISD School Calendar that was recently approved.

I am sure that many of you are aware of the recent trend in some Texas public schools to move to a four-day school week. We did do a survey earlier this year (thanks for those who participated) and there was a strong percentage of students, staff, and parents that were interested in looking at that option. We put together a committee to dig into that possibility and they have been meeting this year looking at the positives, negatives, and the reasons for a four-day week. Just a few things discussed were loss of instructional time, length of a school day (a true four day week would dictate a longer school day), preparation time for teachers, Mondays or Fridays off, instructional material retention, earlier start to the school year, later ending of the school year, childcare on days off, general tiredness of students and staff. The focus came down to two main areas:

1. Instructional time and the effects this would have on student achievement.
2. The “recharge” time of both students and staff.

There was quite a bit of input and emotion around this topic and we developed a “hybrid” model that allows us to try a little of a four-day week, but not jump all the way into that idea just yet. This calendar has less school days (165 total), more short weeks for students (17 total), includes more time off at Christmas, every month except August and May includes a three- or four-day weekend, and no additional time is added to the school day. We feel this will allow for more “recharge” time for students and staff and give us enough time for instruction throughout the school year.

The idea of a four-day week has not been totally dismissed for the future, but this addresses some issues and lets us “try it before we buy it.”

If you have any questions, I would be happy to visit with you about this process.

Robert McLain  
Plains ISD  
Superintendent  
(806) 456-7401

*Cultivating Excellence. Dedicated to Caring. Leading into the Future*