



## New Waverly ISD

355 Front St  
New Waverly, TX 77358  
936.344.6751  
936.344.2438 fax

Dr. Darol Hail  
Superintendent

Sheri O'Hagan  
Secretary

October 28, 2022

Dear Bulldog Family,

I hope this letter finds you and your family doing well. As we enter the season for Thanksgiving and Christmas, you well know how fast the semester goes, and in turn, the entire school year. As fast as the year moves, we are constantly trying to prepare for the future.

New Waverly has a strong reputation as a district and community that strives for success. Our students display this through their many achievements in academics, extra-curriculars, and CTE programs. Our staff displays this by constantly asking questions about what is working and what isn't working. Our community displays this through the strong support of children, whether that's parents giving their time and effort or the community in general coming out to support kids of all ages.

In the desire to meet the needs of all our stakeholders, we are exploring various ideas for our district. One of the ideas that we are going to spend a great deal of time looking at is the idea of a 4-day school week. In general, just writing that sentence seems pretty foreign to me!

### Why would we look at a possibility of a 4-day week?

- It is a growing trend in Texas; many districts have begun this process.
- It is well documented that there is an ever-growing shortage of quality teachers. While New Waverly (again based on our strong reputation) has been able to stay fully staffed, that challenge grows every year. We need to not only attract but retain strong teachers, which in turn keeps our classrooms strong.
- Additionally, there are concerns of student and teacher burn out and a lack of family time in a society that has become busier and busier.
- We want to find out the benefits and challenges for staff, students, and parents. Our goal is to find out if a 4-day week is a good option for New Waverly.

Administratively, we have been researching this idea for some time. We also formed a committee of staff members to look at the issue from the school lens in every way possible. We plan to survey students and community as well.

Most importantly, we will have opportunities for interested parents and community members to meet and examine the issue. If you have an interest in serving in this area, please consider going to our website next week and submitting your name to be a part of the 4-day week committee. There will be link on the homepage. If you are not interested in serving directly or if you have a schedule that does not allow you to participate, we will still provide opportunities for feedback.

We know there are many questions that will need to be answered before any recommendation can be made to the Board of Trustees. However, we want to make sure that you know that we will examine the issue thoroughly and with stakeholder feedback before any changes of this magnitude are implemented.

In Bulldog Pride,  
Superintendent Darol Hail

"Together We Can"