

# Meadow ISD

## **PRESS RELEASE**

At the May 18, 2020 school board meeting, the Meadow ISD Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the 2020-2021 calendar, which includes a four-day school week for students. The board made this decision after careful consideration of both the advantages and disadvantages of conducting classes four days a week, as well as staff and parent/community surveys. This action is a concerted effort by the Board to provide the best instructional environment for both students and staff.

Students will have an extended school day, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:50 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. This student schedule will provide 77,980 minutes of instructional time for the year, which is 2,380 minutes more than the state requirement and more than most school districts across the state. Longer instructional days will provide teachers additional opportunities with students to focus more uninterrupted time on both instruction and remediation of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Superintendent Darrian Dover stated, "With the additional time teachers have with students over the course of four days, we believe students will achieve greater levels of learning as teachers have a longer time to focus on key instructional concepts and necessary remediation to ensure mastery of learning. Allowing the students to condense their concentration levels on schoolwork will maximize their learning capabilities. In fact, I anticipate that the level of homework will decrease on school nights because of what is occurring during this extended school day."

It is the hope that this calendar will also have a positive impact on school attendance by encouraging parents to schedule appointments for their children on Mondays rather than during the four days of instructional time. Another advantage is that teachers will have identified Mondays to focus on instructional coordination, parental communication, data analysis, and other meaningful professional development opportunities.

A key factor in the Board's decision was survey information received from teachers, administrators, support staff, parents, and other community members. Survey results from staff indicated 78% in support a four-day school week, and 72.6% of parental/community respondents also were in favor of the schedule. Two challenges that emerged from the feedback were centered around the length of the school day and childcare concerns for Mondays.

In an attempt to mitigate the length of the school day, the district will provide three daily meals for the students and sufficient time for intellectual breaks. The district fully understands that childcare could be an additional responsibility for some parents. It is the hope that the longer school day on Tuesday through Friday will better align with the parental workday to alleviate before/after school childcare needs, and therefore help offset the additional childcare needed.

School Board President Keith Harrison stressed, "I am very excited about the new changes that we are making at Meadow ISD. I truly believe that both students and teachers will benefit from a four-day instructional week. Tonight's board action, we hope demonstrates that we are committed to providing a school learning environment that provides a pathway to success for all those associated with Meadow ISD."

**See attachment for more details.**



# DARRIAN DOVER

Superintendent of Meadow ISD

## CONTACT

---

PHONE:  
254-631-2025

ADDRESS:  
604 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Meadow, Texas 79345

EMAIL:  
[Darrian.dover@meadowisd.net](mailto:Darrian.dover@meadowisd.net)

## WHY A FOUR-DAY WEEK?

I have been the Instructional Leader for our district for 8 years and have watched many quality teachers leave our district for perceived better opportunities. I have also heard my administration and staff express difficulties having time during the day to get all material covered. So how can we retain the best staff and give the staff the quality of time per day that they need?

The answer, in my opinion, is to become one of the first schools in Region 17 to fully adopt a four-day instructional week. Without a doubt, launching this task is a huge undertaking with many questions, concerns, and logistical issues for families to work through. We have asked the questions, viewed the concerns from all angles and do not dismiss the effort that will be required to take advantage of this unique opportunity. The leadership team has individually and collectively put in much study, discussion, and problem-solving. As a result, both the leadership and elected board of trustees believe the long-term benefits of a four-day instructional week will significantly outweigh the challenges.

The primary benefits include a school calendar that will serve as a major inducement for retaining and recruiting quality teachers and staff; and being able to designate more time to staff development and preparedness for the education of our students. Achieving these two goals alone will have a lasting and significantly positive impact on the children we are committed to serving.

I ask each of you to join us in achieving this ambitious and important goal. Together we can **"PROVIDE A PATHWAY FOR SUCCESS"** for our students.

Darrian Dover



## **FOUR DAY WEEK HIGHLIGHTS**

- 1) Teachers will have Mondays off except for Professional Development days scheduled the second Monday of each month (Refer to Calendar)
- 2) Our school day will be from 7:45 am till buses run at 4:50 pm
- 3) We would feed the students 3 meals during the day
- 4) We will still meet the 75,600-minute state requirement
- 5) We would still get out of school for the summer before the beginning of June

## **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

- 1) **Recruitment & Retention-** The new calendar encourages top educators and staff to not only come to MISD but also stay here when nearby districts can offer higher salaries and benefits
- 2) **Student learning-** Having and retaining the best teachers directly benefits students learning. Larger blocks of instructional times with brain breaks scheduled during the day will help with delivery of materials
- 3) **School culture & reduced absences-** Reduced behavior referrals and parents/staff would have a day to schedule appointments
- 4) **Preparedness-** Instructional and support staff have more time to best prepare for classes and take advantage of professional development opportunities

## **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

### **1) Will childcare be provided on Monday's?**

After intensive study of all options, the leadership team has determined it is not viable for the district to provide childcare on Mondays. Families are asked to make accommodations for childcare as they would during school holidays and summer breaks.

**2) Will meals be provided for students on Monday's?**

This program will be evaluated and could be determined by community need. We plan to feed three meals before we dismiss each day.

**3) How will a four-day week impact athletics and other extracurricular activities?**

MISD will continue to prepare/practice our extracurricular activities and teams on Monday's

**4) Is the four-day instructional week being introduced for financial reason?**

No. The four-day instructional week is revenue neutral

**5) How does this impact students with college classes?**

We anticipate minimal impact on the dual credit program. Students will be expected to maintain their course load determined by SPC.

**EXPECTATIONS**

- 1) Teacher/Community members will schedule personal appointments on off days
- 2) The school district would move to a 9-week grading period
- 3) The school district would commit to a 1-year trial period for the 4-day instructional week with evaluation/input from community and staff ongoing throughout the year

# Meadow 2020-2021

July

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## SYMBOL KEY

- School Holiday
- Staff Development Day
- Early Release
- Inclement Weather Day
- Nine Weeks Beginning & Ending

## Grading Periods

1 <sup>st</sup> Term/Sem	71 Days
2 <sup>nd</sup> Term/Sem	77 Days
1 <sup>st</sup> Term/Sem Ends	Dec 17
2 <sup>nd</sup> Term/Sem Ends	May 27

## DAY BREAKDOWN

Instructional	148
Staff Development	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>

## HOUR BREAKDOWN

Minutes Per Day	530
Estimated Minutes	77,980
Extra Banked Minutes	2,380
Approx Banked Days	4 Days

## STUDENT HOLIDAYS

Thanksgiving	November 23-27
Christmas	December 18-Jan 4
Spring Break	March 15 – 19
Bad Weather Days	May 10 & 17

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT

August:	4,5,6,7
September	14
October:	12
November	9
December	18
January:	4
February:	8
March	8
April	12
May:	28

## EARLY RELEASE DAYS

Meet the Broncos:	Aug 6
Graduation:	May 28
Parent Conferences:	TBD

January

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			