

School Operations Committee Meeting

Monday, January 5, 2026 3:15 PM

Tate Hall Conference Room, 615 Olof Hanson Drive, Faribault, MN 55021

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Meeting Minutes Review**
3. **Discuss Survey Results**
4. **Calendar Draft Recommendations**
5. **Adjourn**

Minutes of School Operations Committee Meeting Minnesota State Academies Board

A School Operations Committee Meeting of the Minnesota State Academies Board was held Tuesday, December 2, 2025, beginning at 3:15 PM in the Tate Hall Conference Room, 615 Olof Hanson Drive, Faribault, MN 55021.

1. Call to Order

Present: Terry Wilding, Katie Wangberg, Annette Freiheit, Heather Smisek, Katie Wangberg, Jamers Speier, Hernan Moncada.

Ex-officio: John Davis, Brittany Thomforde, Harold Weber, Nichelle Steffen.

Called to order at 3:16 pm.

2. Review 2025-2026 School Calendar

Discussion on this year's calendar: The half day on the day before Thanksgiving went well; however, a snowstorm hit on that day, resulting in approximately 40 absences.

Harry: some complaints about the short time between the end of the summer school and the start of school.

Brittany: A good number of staff requested the Wednesday afternoon before Thanksgiving off.

Katie: Should PD be offered that afternoon?

Harry: PD should not be scheduled if most staff plan to take the afternoon off.

Annette: Agreed, scheduling PD on the day before Thanksgiving break will be difficult for both the trainers and teachers.

3. Review 2026-2027 School Calendar Draft

Most dates will be similar to the 2025-2026 school year, including a similar winter break. Spring break could be scheduled for the last week of March/first week of April (over Easter), which aligns with other schools in the area.

Harry: Questioned the value of having an extra work day at the end of the semester/school year, as progress reports are due before then anyway.

Britt: progress reports are due earlier to ensure all work is turned in so if there are any follow ups needed, this could be taken care of before staff leaves for the summer.

Annette: Suggested a check out system to ensure reports are submitted.

Brittany: Confirmed a process exists but will explore improvements.

Terry: The extra day could be used for ESY planning or reports.

Katie: Suggested using Google forms instead of emailing for the check-out system.

Terry: Graduation in 2027 will occur before Memorial Day; based on past feedback teachers have preferred the school year to end after Memorial Day to be eligible for holiday pay. Asked about shifting the end of the year one week later and starting a little later in August.

Katie: Asked if the work day could be scheduled after Memorial Day.

Terry: not ideal, as paraprofessionals do not have work days.

John: Suggested adding more breaks throughout the year to extend the last week of school.

Terry: Proposed having all-staff training begin on August 25th; will include this question in the survey.

Annette: Recommended drafting the calendar with the one-week delay.

Harry: Requested the survey remind staff that finishing before Memorial Day means no holiday pay.

4. Discuss Options and Questions for Survey

Questions to include in the survey:

- Spring break dates
- Half days and long weekends
- Start and end dates
-

Next steps: Terry will send out a survey next week. The committee will review feedback at the next meeting, with the goal of finalizing the calendar by February.

5. Adjourn

Adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Parent Survey Results Text Only

Q1: How do you feel about half-days on the calendar (i.e., half-days on Fridays)?

Choices:

- It doesn't affect me: 15 (51.72%)
- I do not like half-days. I prefer full days: 8 (27.59%)
- I am ok with a few half-days, but not too often: 6 (20.69%)
- Total 29 responses

Q2: If you had a choice, which would you prefer... Starting earlier in August or finishing later in June?

Choices:

- Start earlier in August, finish in May: 13 (44.83%)
- Start later in August, finish in June: 8 (27.59%)
- Start after Labor Day, finish later in June: 6 (20.69%)
- Start earlier in August, finish later in June, adding more breaks throughout the year: 0 (0%)
- It doesn't matter to me: 2 (6.9%)
- Total 29 responses

Q3: How do you feel about having more long weekends (4-day school weeks) throughout the year?

Choices:

- Love them – schedule a few long weekends scattered through the school year: 10 (34.48%)
- Hate them – keep our students in school for the full week as much as possible.: 6 (20.69%)
- I am ok with adding a couple of long weekends during the spring semester only: 6 (20.69%)
- It doesn't matter to me: 7 (24.14%)
- Total 29 responses

Q4: We are looking at two possibilities for spring break during the spring of 2027. The first option (March 8-12) follows Faribault Public Schools' spring break while the second option (March 29-April 2) includes Easter Sunday (March 28) and follows Owatonna Public Schools' spring break. Please let us know which option you would prefer.

Choices:

- March 8-12: 6 (20.69%)
- March 29-April 2: 8 (27.59%)
- It doesn't matter to me: 15 (51.72%)
- Total 29 responses

Q5: What things did you like/dislike about this year's calendar (2025-2026)?

8 answered, 21 skipped:

- "Not really."
- "Looking at the 2025-2026 calendar I feel like April is going to a long month since there are zero weekdays off of school. The long weekend in January, right after Christmas break, would be nice to be spread out to the spring."
- "N/A."
- "I want fall break to be no school/no work for staff on Wednesday because on that day, there is no point for students and staff to work on a half day, so they winged it. I feel like students learn nothing on that day because shorten hours – teachers not function fully."
- "Going back to school on Easter Sunday, not many half days."
- "Nothing so far, this is our first year here and like it."
- "I have hard time can't get jobs cuz due my kids not same day no school or spring break is soo hard for me I have to stay home mom that not fair"
- "How does it not align with Faribault public schools' off days"

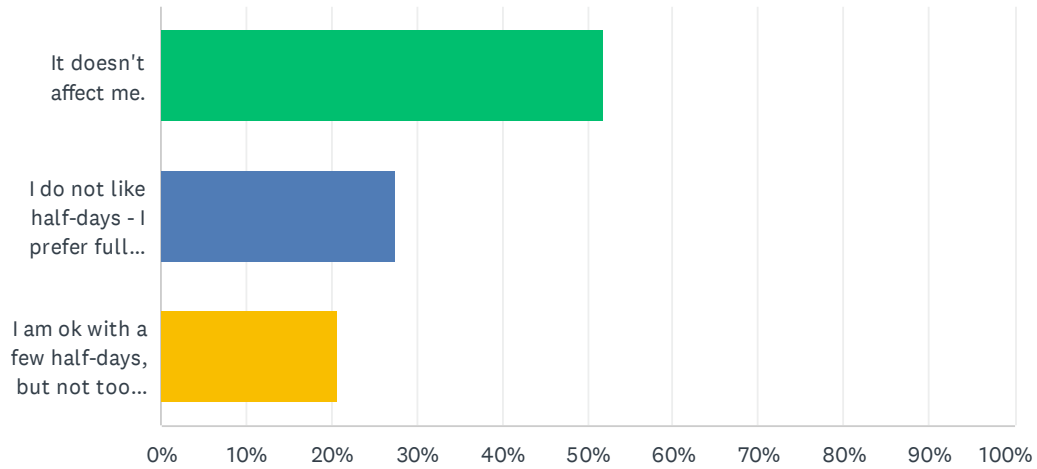
Q6: Any other ideas/suggestions that you'd like the committee to consider as we develop our 2025-2026 school calendar?

6 answered, 23 skipped:

- “Thanksgiving week off.”
- “No.”
- “I would rather have 3 day weekends instead of 4 day weekends.”
- “NA”
- “no half days – staff bull****ing on half days, sorry for my language.”
- “Just cut down no school.”

Q1 How do you feel about half-days on the calendar (i.e., half-days on Fridays)?

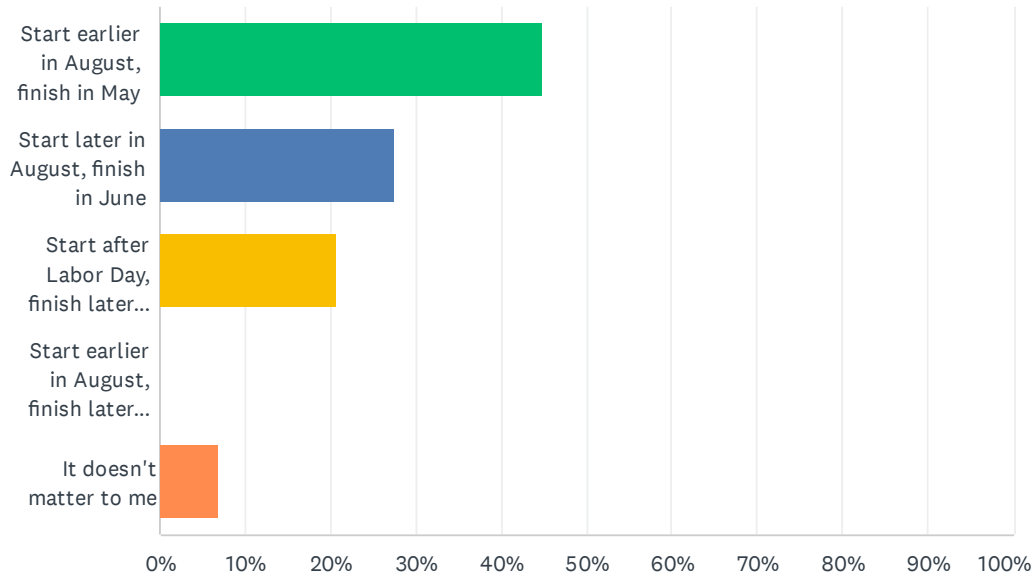
Answered: 29 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
It doesn't affect me.	51.72%	15
I do not like half-days - I prefer full days.	27.59%	8
I am ok with a few half-days, but not too often	20.69%	6
TOTAL		29

Q2 If you had a choice, which would you prefer...Starting earlier in August or finishing later in June?

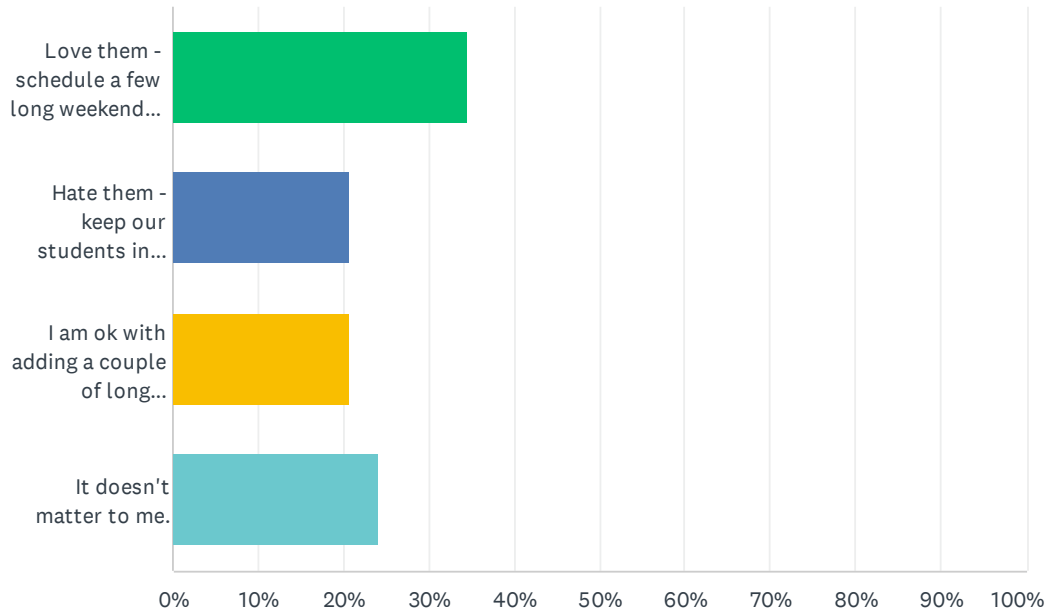
Answered: 29 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Start earlier in August, finish in May	44.83%	13
Start later in August, finish in June	27.59%	8
Start after Labor Day, finish later in June	20.69%	6
Start earlier in August, finish later in June, adding more breaks throughout the year	0.00%	0
It doesn't matter to me	6.90%	2
TOTAL		29

Q3 How do you feel about having more long weekends (4-day school weeks) throughout the year?

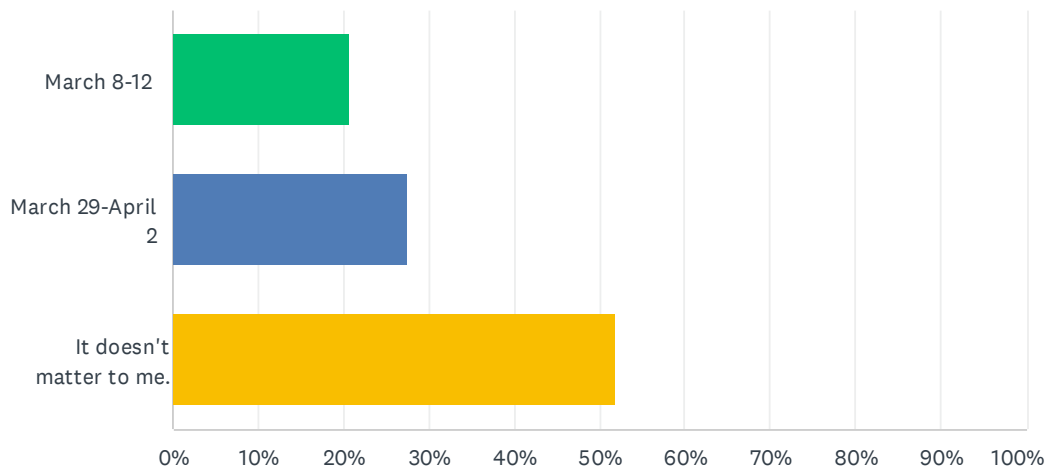
Answered: 29 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Love them - schedule a few long weekends scattered through the school year.	34.48%	10
Hate them - keep our students in school for the full week as much as possible.	20.69%	6
I am ok with adding a couple of long weekends during the spring semester only.	20.69%	6
It doesn't matter to me.	24.14%	7
TOTAL		29

Q4 We are looking at two possibilities for spring break during the spring of 2027. The first option (March 8-12) follows Faribault Public Schools' spring break while the second option (March 29-April 2) includes Easter Sunday (March 28th) and follows Owatonna Public Schools' spring break. Please let us know which option you would prefer.

Answered: 29 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
March 8-12	20.69% 6
March 29-April 2	27.59% 8
It doesn't matter to me.	51.72% 15
TOTAL	29

Q5 What things did you like/dislike about about this year's calendar (2025-2026)? MSA 2025-2026 School Calendar

Answered: 8 Skipped: 21

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Not really	12/11/2025 10:58 AM
2	Looking at the 2025-2026 calendar I feel like April is going to a long month since there are zero weekdays off of school. The long weekend in January, right after Christmas break, would be nice to be spread out to the spring.	12/11/2025 9:13 AM
3	NA	12/10/2025 7:23 PM
4	I want fall break to be no school/no work for staff on Wednesday because on that day, there is no point for students and staff to work on a half day, so they winged it. I feel like students learn nothing on that day because shorten hours --teachers not function fully.	12/10/2025 6:54 PM
5	Going back to school on Easter Sunday, not many half days.	12/10/2025 6:24 PM
6	Nothing so far, this is our first year here and like it	12/10/2025 5:52 PM
7	I have hard time can't get jobs cuz due my kids not same day no school or spring break is soo hard for me I have to stay home mom that not fair	12/10/2025 5:46 PM
8	How it does not align with faribault public schools' off days	12/10/2025 5:43 PM

Q6 Any other ideas/suggestions that you'd like the committee to consider as we develop our 2025-2026 school calendar?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 23

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Thanksgiving Week Off	12/12/2025 2:54 PM
2	No	12/11/2025 10:58 AM
3	I would rather have 3 day weekends instead of 4 day weekends.	12/11/2025 9:13 AM
4	NA	12/10/2025 7:23 PM
5	no half days—staff bullshitting on half days, sorry for my language.	12/10/2025 6:54 PM
6	Just cut down no school	12/10/2025 5:46 PM

Staff Survey Results – Text Only

Q1: For our first/last days of school, which would you prefer... Starting earlier in August or finishing later in June? (Dates listed below are approximate, depending on the holidays, long weekends, etc. That we might incorporate in the final draft) *A reminder that if we end our school year before Memorial Day (May 31st), many employees will not qualify for the Memorial Day Holiday

Choices:

- Start earlier in August (Aug. 24, finish in May (May 28): 26 votes (26.53%)
- Start later in August (Aug. 31), finish in June (June 4): 41 votes (41.84%)
- Start after Labor Day (Sept. 8), finish later in June (June 11): 12 votes (12.24%)
- Start in August (August 24 or 31), finish later in June (June 4 or 11), adding more breaks throughout the year: 9 votes (9.18%)
- It doesn't matter to me: 10 votes (10.28%)
- Total responses: 98

Q2: How do you feel about having more long weekends (4-day school weeks) throughout the year?

Choices:

- Love them – schedule a few long weekends scattered through the school year: 49 votes (50%)
- Hate them – keep our students in school for the full week as much as possible: 11 votes (11.22%)
- I am okay with a couple of long weekends during the spring semester only: 12 votes (12.24%)
- It doesn't matter to me: 26 votes (26.53%)
- Total responses: 98

Q3: We are looking at two possibilities for spring break during the spring of 2027. The first option (March 8-12) follows Faribault Public Schools' spring break while the second option (March 29-April 2) includes Easter Sunday (March 28) and follows

Owatonna Public Schools' spring break. Please let us know which option you would prefer

Choices:

- March 8-12: 31 votes (31.63%)
- March 29-April 2: 43 votes (43.88%)
- It doesn't matter to me: 24 votes (24.49%)
- Total responses: 98

Q4: For teachers: How did you feel about this year's ½ day schedule on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Break? This year, we scheduled the afternoon as a work day for teachers. Do you feel it should be a work day or should we close school for that afternoon?

Choices:

- Keep a ½ day schedule (½ day of classes; ½ day for work): 22 (22.45%)
- Change it to a ½ day schedule for everyone – no work in the afternoon: 16 (16.33%)
- Change it back to a “Friday Schedule” on that day: 4 (4.08%)
- This does not affect me – I am not a teacher: 56 (57/14%)
- Total responses: 98

Q5: For teachers: What are your suggestions for the work day after graduation?

Choices:

- Keep it as a work day- complete tasks/check out activities: 36 (36.73%)
- Add planning work for ESY: 17 (17.35%)
- Add Professional Development on this day: 4 (4.08%)
- Use this day for curriculum work: 3 (3.06%)
- Other (specified below): 38 (38.78%)

“Other” Responses:

- “Para stay to help teacher to clean up, and etc.”

- “Our work day NEEDS to align with due dates for grades/progress. If the due dates are before the last day of school, then our work day also needs to be before the last day.”
- “Get rid of it or change the dates for the progress reports.”
- Either get rid of it entirely and make the day before progress reports are due a work day or just get rid of it entirely.”
- 34 replied N/A

Q6: What things did you like/dislike about this year’s calendar (2025-2026)?

39 responses, 59 skipped:

- “I like this year’s calendar, it would be nice to have a full week off with Thanksgiving.”
- “Struggle with two week winter break; tends to lead to increased numbers of student behaviors and stress on their mental health/well being”
- “I would also like to have a half-day break on the last day of winter break in December.”
- “Easter Monday should be off, Mother’s Day should be off, hate 3 weeks of ESY (only 2 weeks, 3 weeks is very tough), moving sports camp up so it doesn’t interfere with staff back to school training.”
- “Half days- paras stay and help teachers after noon dismissals. No more working for ASP – teachers need paras support to help with tasks.”
- “We did not adhere to FPS schedules. I often had to arrange and find babysitters for my children. FPS received one teacher’s day each month. We should do the same.”
- “Lack of breaks during spring semester.”
- “No break in April or May or Oct.”
- “I like the half days prior to MEA and Thanksgiving but do not like the half day on January 15, I find it unnecessary.”
- “There doesn’t seem to have any FTC (midterm) scheduled for the second semester (usually in March). Otherwise, it is pretty satisfactory, at least for me.”
- “Dislike - Having ESY so late. There is no reason we can’t start ESY the Monday after the 4th, no matter what day the 4th lands on. This year’s welcome back day was the worst one I’ve ever experienced as an employee of MSA. We do not need to be treated like children with assigned seating and icebreaker games. We should be treated as professionals and given the respect to use the short amount of time we have to work on more valuable tasks, such as developing schedules, setting up classrooms, preparing curriculum, setting up technology, etc. Not only is being

talked at for 8 hours an ineffective way to process information, it is incredibly demoralizing. If there is information to be shared outside the required trainings, then we should have a department meeting and/or it should be sent in an email.”

- “Communication seemed better this year, thanks.”
- “Days off around Easter.”
- “I did not like the 3 weeks of ESY. Go back to Monday through Friday normal hours of 2 weeks.”
- “The semester throws me off to be honest. I’m used to having a quarter system. I don’t have any complaints...?”
- “Loved the 2 FULL weeks off at the end of December. Not a fan of the very short break between ESY and the start of Professional Development in August. Very little consecutive time off for ESY workers.”
- “Liked not having a workshop during winter break.”
- “Liked not having the professional development day, not during the winter break.”
- “I don’t want homecoming to be too soon when we get back to school. Let’s spread it out and have homecoming on the last weekend of September instead of the second week of September.”
- “On welcome back day and then workdays to get ready for the school year.”
- “I loved the noon dismissals before MEA and Thanksgiving break!”
- “The fact that we only had 2 weeks before we went back to work was not fun.”
- “I don’t like that there are no days off from spring break all the way to the end of the year.”
- “The 3 weeks of summer school. Most students do not attend the 3 week full session. Go back to 2 weeks full days M-F”
- “Dislike the late start of summer school. Dislike still having 3 weeks of summer school. Most kids at blind school were gone at least 1 of the weeks due to having other camps.”
- I liked the start/end dates. Dislike full workday before Thanksgiving. Would like more breaks in the spring.”
- “I do not like half days and the teacher work days are not consistent with Faribault public schools.”
- “Nothing.”
- “Dislikes: Summer school was unnecessarily 3 short weeks instead of 2 full weeks. Summer school started too late in July and school started too early in August (making it difficult to do anything in between them). Additionally, many other districts put the wrong dates in their IEPs since it is usually earlier in July. Started school quite early in August. Likes: Having a day after semester end of both

semesters to do paperwork/clean/organize as there is rarely time during the year for such tasks.”

- “N/A.”
- “It’s perfect!”
- “Would like less breaks and rather work.”
- “I don’t have a strong opinion either way.”
- “Not enough workday for teachers/staff only. Please allow one full weekend for dorm to open so students can experience dorm life during the weekend – they live once.”
- Like the idea of having 3 weeks of ESY every summer. Like seeing students continue with educations.”
- “Too much all together trainings at the beginning of the year. Give us more work time to prepare for the school year.”
- “Need more training offers and dorm mtgs when students are dismissed or long weekend happens.”
- “Summer school should start the Monday after 4th of July! No need to start a week later. We’ve never done that before and it cuts too much into August.”
- “It perfect.”

Q7: Any other ideas/suggestions that you’d like the committee to consider as we develop our 2025-2026 school calendar?

41 answered, 57 skipped:

- “I think we need a day during the all staff welcome back to review with staff resources, location of forms, policies, procedures, and why we need to do the things the way we do.”
- “Can we have ½ day for the Friday before winter break?”
- “Add a half day before winter break begins; once a month have 1 a half day; February, April and maybe May could use 4 day school-week.”
- “Build in professional development/training on MEA days; doesn’t have to be required but school could provide training that apply to state licensure requirements or other professional development opportunities.”
- “The 2026-2027 school calendar should include more workdays and curriculum days, as well as a professional development day instead of having meetings after 3 p.m. This change would be more manageable for teachers. Additionally, I would like to see a professional development session for the paraprofessionals as well.”

- “You mean your 2026-2027 calendar? Think about staff burn-out, we have a good amount of tough kids to work with and staff get burnt out fast. If you don’t think about staff burn-out you won’t have any staff to work here anymore.”
- “Para requires more professional development for their student assignment. I work with ASD students, and there are no resources or professional development opportunities. Due to student assignments, professional development is frequently not applied to para. We might want to break down the professional development so that specific ones can benefit from it and support their students. Para could have their professional development during Teacher’s day.”
- “Consider scheduling professional development option during MEA break.”
- “4 day work weeks would be amazing. Do it. (smiley face emoji)”
- “Monthly assigned short day or no school (ex. Fridays) whereas staff are given this day/time to do professional development, training, or curriculum work. Other schools have this implemented in their schools, something to consider especially we are a special education school.”
- “I would suggest moving ESY to June, a week or two after the end of the school year. I also believe that ESY should only be two weeks Mon-Fri.”
- “I love the idea of 4-day school weeks scattered throughout the year, providing extra breaks. If this requires starting earlier and ending a bit later to maintain 180 school days, that is acceptable. (smiley face emoji)”
- “Go back to 2 weeks ESY. Align our year end work day with paperwork due dates. No school at all the day before Thanksgiving.”
- “Too many snack items, everywhere all the time. This should not be a tool.”
- 5 replied “N/A” or “nothing”
- “Two 5 day (8-3) weeks of ESY, NOT three 4 day (8-2) weeks. If I were remaining at MSA< I would not offer to work ESY again as I was not a fan of the three 4 day weeks of ESY. It left me with very weird breaks in work, so unemployment, summer work opportunities, and daycare was hard to navigate. I think there would be more interest in ESY staff if the schedule made sense...”
- “More prep time that first week to get ready for the school year.”
- “Programs like Holiday programs should be at 1 pm instead of 10:30 am so parents that come don’t have to take a whole day off of work. Also, they usually take students home. So we could utilize the morning for school.”
- “I strongly support having more long weekends spread throughout the year. Especially during the 2nd semester when there’s less holidays. Thank you!”

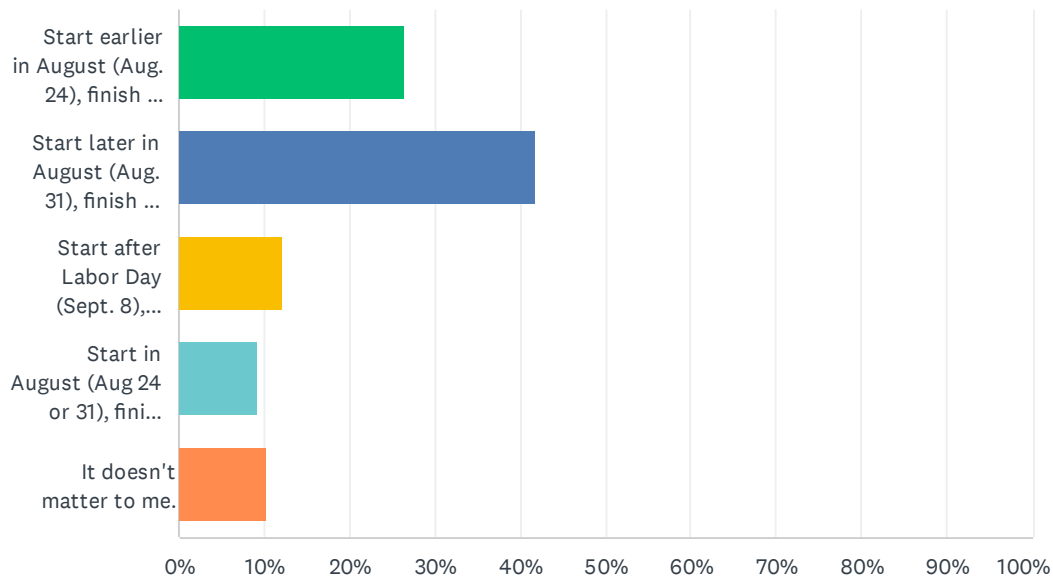
- "Why not start ESY on July 6? If the holiday is our excuse, then why do we have school on any week after a holiday? OR why not move ESY to Tuesday through Friday for the first week? Starting before FPS is a good idea for kids taking Gen Ed classes over there because they can orient themselves to the building and their classrooms without having 500 other kids to deal with in the hallways."
- "Move summer school back to two weeks or start it earlier in July after the 4th of July. It shouldn't be the last 3 weeks of July."
- "2 full weeks of summer school, not 3 short weeks."
- "We should start training August 31. Going to June 11 and then 3 weeks of summer school is way too much childcare for some parents. We didn't take this job because it pays great, we took it to be with our kids in the summer."
- "Please consider that the more extensive facilities projects tend to be planned for the summer break. If you choose to start school earlier, there is little time to complete projects due to ESY and the rush to prepare rooms/buildings for the new school year."
- "An alternate or stretched calendar for those that provide IFSP services."
- "It would be nice since some of us have students in the Public schools to run the same schedule as they do."
- "MSAD is stationed in Faribault and should follow Faribault public school calendar."
- "Need a long weekend in late April, it is a long stretch for both staff and students to go from mid/late March till the end of May."
- "Friday before Easter and Monday after Easter I would like to see as no school days. Time to be with family. Not just another weekend."
- "Mother's Day is difficult for families. It would be nice to make that a 3 day weekend."
- "Would love to have more curriculum set up time, I felt I barely had preparation time before school started, needed more time and support."
- "2 weeks for Christmas."
- "1 welcome back training day, the rest work days to prepare for the school year."
- "I love the suggestion of 4 day school week. I see many benefits of a '4'Day School Week' including: 1) improved attendance, students and staff often miss fewer days; appointments can be scheduled on the off-day, meaning less classroom disruption. 2) Reduced burnout – students and teachers get an extra day to rest, catch up on work, or take care of personal needs; can reduce stress

and improve mental health. 3) Better teacher recruitment and retention – a shorter week is appealing to teachers, especially in rural or hard-to-staff districts; helps school keep experienced staff and attract new talent. 4) Cost savings for Districts – savings on transportation, food service, utilities, and substitute teachers; districts can reallocate savings to student supports, programs, or staffing. 5) Increased student engagement – when students are more rested, they participate better; less ‘midweek slump’ and more focused instruction. 6) More family flexibility – families can schedule appointments, travel, and childcare more intentionally; high school students can work, volunteer, or attend job=training programs on the off day. 7) Better work-life balance – both staff and students get more time for: family, health appointments, personal responsibilities, extracurriculars.”

- “Please take these surveys into consideration!”
- “Start early (Aug. 24) finish (May 28) every week is a 4-day week/3-day weekend”
- “Yes, in April have no break it too long full month and student be home with family the Easter”

Q1 For our first/last days of school, which would you prefer...Starting earlier in August or finishing later in June? (Dates listed below are approximate, depending on the holidays, long weekends, etc. that we might incorporate in the final draft)*A reminder that if we end our school year before Memorial Day (May 31st), many employees will not qualify for the Memorial Day Holiday

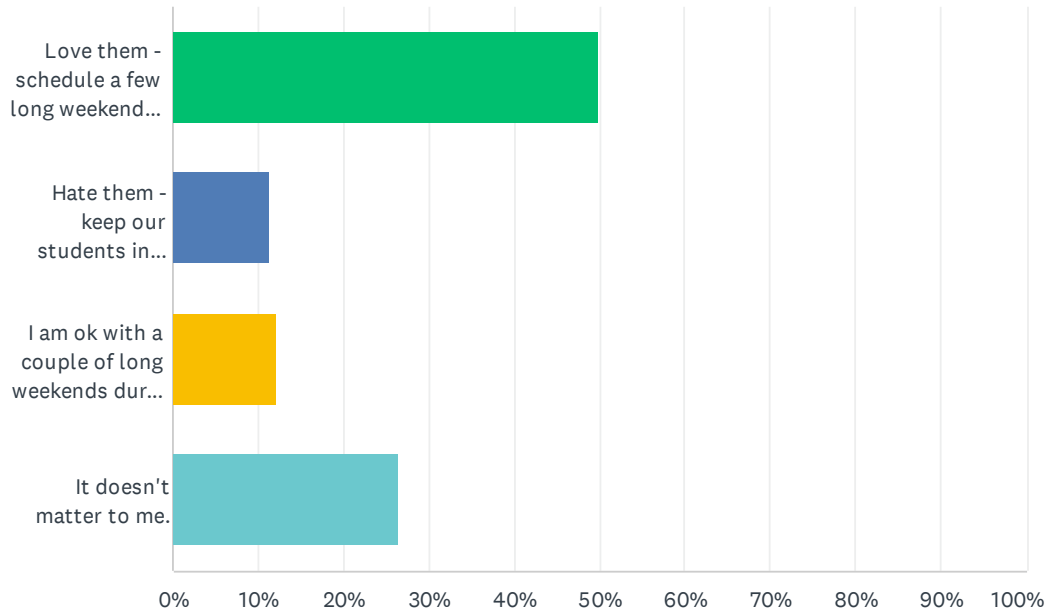
Answered: 98 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Start earlier in August (Aug. 24), finish in May (May 28)	26.53%	26
Start later in August (Aug. 31), finish in June (June 4)	41.84%	41
Start after Labor Day (Sept. 8), finish later in June (June 11)	12.24%	12
Start in August (Aug 24 or 31), finish later in June (June 4 or 11), adding more breaks throughout the year	9.18%	9
It doesn't matter to me.	10.20%	10
TOTAL		98

Q2 How do you feel about having more long weekends (4-day school weeks) throughout the year?

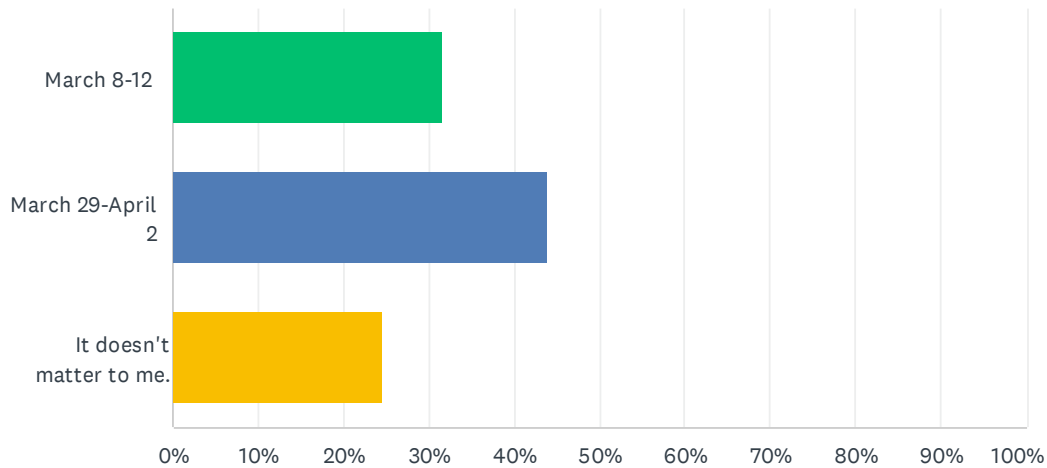
Answered: 98 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Love them - schedule a few long weekends scattered through the school year.	50.00%	49
Hate them - keep our students in school for the full week as much as possible.	11.22%	11
I am ok with a couple of long weekends during the spring semester only.	12.24%	12
It doesn't matter to me.	26.53%	26
TOTAL		98

Q3 We are looking at two possibilities for spring break during the spring of 2027. The first option (March 8-12) follows Faribault Public Schools' spring break while the second option (March 29-April 2) includes Easter Sunday (March 28th) and follows Owatonna Public Schools' spring break. Please let us know which option you would prefer

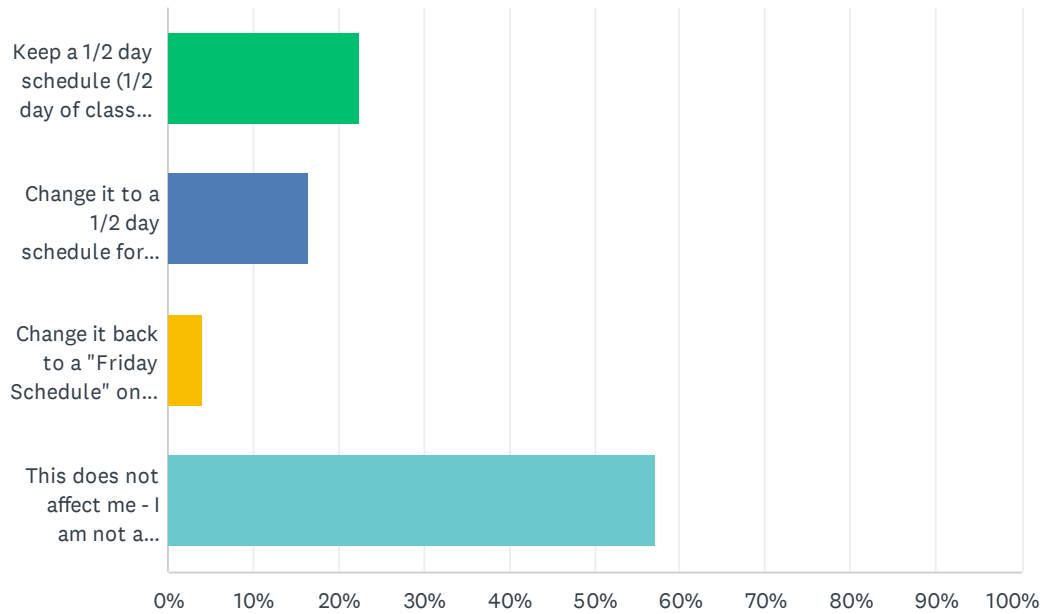
Answered: 98 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
March 8-12	31.63% 31
March 29-April 2	43.88% 43
It doesn't matter to me.	24.49% 24
TOTAL	98

Q4 For teachers: How did you feel about this year's 1/2 day schedule on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Break? This year, we scheduled the afternoon as a work day for teachers. Do you feel it should be a work day or should we close school for that afternoon?

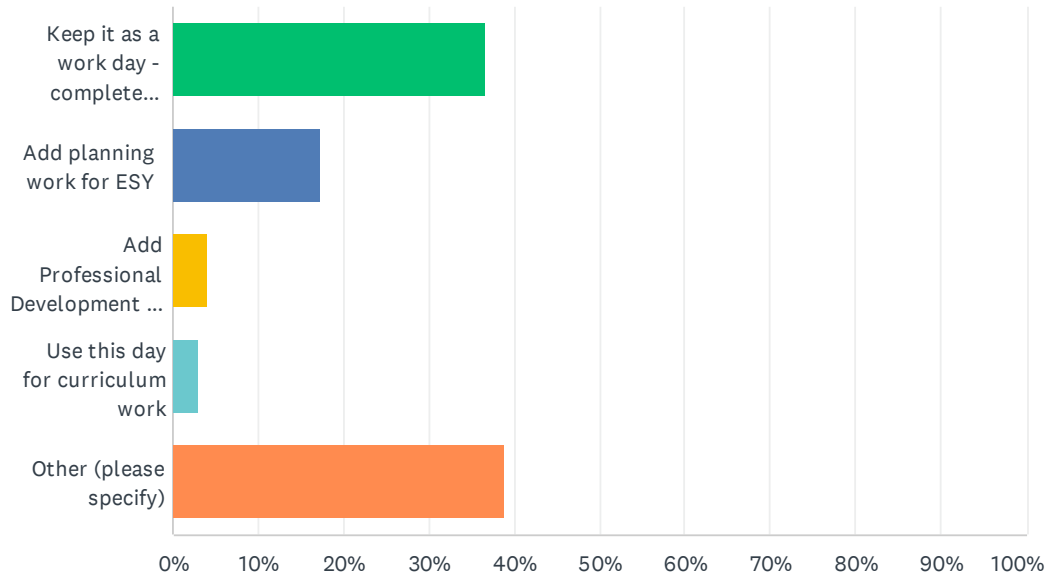
Answered: 98 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Keep a 1/2 day schedule (1/2 day of classes; 1/2 day for work)	22.45%	22
Change it to a 1/2 day schedule for everyone - no work in the afternoon	16.33%	16
Change it back to a "Friday Schedule" on that day	4.08%	4
This does not affect me - I am not a teacher	57.14%	56
TOTAL		98

Q5 For teachers: What are your suggestions for the work day after graduation?

Answered: 98 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Keep it as a work day - complete tasks/check out activities	36.73%	36
Add planning work for ESY	17.35%	17
Add Professional Development on this day	4.08%	4
Use this day for curriculum work	3.06%	3
Other (please specify)	38.78%	38
TOTAL		98

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Para stay to help the teacher to clean up, and etc.	12/15/2025 12:35 PM
2	not a teacher	12/15/2025 10:59 AM
3	NA	12/13/2025 2:50 PM
4	I am not a teacher	12/12/2025 1:18 PM
5	Not a teacher	12/11/2025 4:26 PM
6	not a teacher	12/11/2025 2:38 PM
7	Our work day NEEDS to align with due dates for grades/progress. If the due dates are before the last day of school, then our work day also needs to be before the last day.	12/11/2025 1:37 PM
8	Not a teacher	12/11/2025 10:52 AM
9	N/a	12/11/2025 10:41 AM

10	not a teacher	12/11/2025 10:35 AM
11	Not a teacher	12/11/2025 10:35 AM
12	Not a Teacher	12/11/2025 9:45 AM
13	Get rid of it or change the dates for the progress reports	12/11/2025 9:02 AM
14	Not a teacher	12/11/2025 8:57 AM
15	Not a teacher	12/11/2025 8:53 AM
16	Does not affect me	12/11/2025 8:50 AM
17	Either get rid of it intirely and make the day before progress reports are due a work day or just get rid of it intirely.	12/11/2025 8:35 AM
18	NA	12/11/2025 8:14 AM
19	It doesn't matter to me	12/11/2025 8:14 AM
20	Am not teacher	12/11/2025 8:03 AM
21	I am not a teacher	12/11/2025 7:50 AM
22	na - not a teacher	12/11/2025 7:37 AM
23	this doesnt effect me	12/11/2025 7:18 AM
24	N/A	12/11/2025 7:07 AM
25	not applicable to me	12/11/2025 6:58 AM
26	I am not a teacher	12/11/2025 6:22 AM
27	not a teacher	12/11/2025 6:14 AM
28	Not a teacher	12/11/2025 4:21 AM
29	Not a teacher	12/11/2025 1:52 AM
30	I am not a teacher	12/10/2025 8:16 PM
31	not a teacher	12/10/2025 8:13 PM
32	NA	12/10/2025 8:07 PM
33	NA	12/10/2025 7:45 PM
34	A	12/10/2025 7:16 PM
35	Not a teacher	12/10/2025 5:16 PM
36	Doesn't bother me	12/10/2025 5:12 PM
37	I'm not teacher	12/10/2025 5:11 PM
38	Im not a teacher	12/10/2025 5:09 PM

Q6 What things did you like/dislike about about this year's calendar (2025-2026)? MSA 2025-2026 School Calendar

Answered: 39 Skipped: 59

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I like this year's calendar; it would be nice to have a full week off with Thanksgiving break	12/19/2025 3:49 PM
2	Struggle with two week winter break; tends to lead to increased numbers of student behaviors and stress on their mental health/well being	12/18/2025 2:45 PM
3	I would also like to have a half-day break on the last day of winter break in December.	12/16/2025 10:43 PM
4	Easter Monday should be off, Mother's Day should be off, hate 3 weeks of ESY (only 2 weeks, 3 weeks is very tough), moving sports camp up so it doesn't interfere with staff back to school training	12/15/2025 3:27 PM
5	Half day—paras stay and help teachers after noon dismissals No more working for ASP - teachers need paras support to help w tasks	12/15/2025 2:38 PM
6	We did not adhere to FPS schedules. I often had to arrange and find babysitters for my children. FPS received one teacher's day each month. We should do the same.	12/15/2025 12:35 PM
7	Lack of breaks during spring semester.	12/15/2025 12:25 PM
8	No break in April or May or Oct.	12/13/2025 2:50 PM
9	I like the half days prior to MEA and Thanksgiving but do not like the half day on January 15, I find it unnecessary.	12/12/2025 2:50 PM
10	There doesn't seem to have any FTC (mid term) scheduled for the second semester (usually in March). Otherwise, it is pretty satisfactory, at least for me.	12/12/2025 8:46 AM
11	Dislike- Having ESY so late. There is no reason we can't start ESY the Monday after the 4th, no matter what day the 4th lands on. This year's welcome back day was the worst one I've ever experienced as an employee of MSA. We do not need to be treated like children with assigned seating and icebreaker games. We should be treated as professionals and given the respect to use the short amount of time we have to work on more valuable tasks, such as developing schedules, setting up classrooms, preparing curriculum, setting up technology, etc. Not only is being talked at for 8 hours an ineffective way to process information, it is incredibly demoralizing. If there is information to be shared outside of the required trainings, then we should have a department meeting and/or it should be sent in an email.	12/11/2025 1:37 PM
12	Communication seemed better this year, thanks	12/11/2025 11:48 AM
13	Days off around Easter	12/11/2025 11:13 AM
14	I did not like the 3 weeks of ESY. Go back to Monday through Friday normal hours of 2 weeks.	12/11/2025 10:59 AM
15	The semester throws me off to be honest. I'm used to having a quarter system. I don't have any complaints...?	12/11/2025 10:58 AM
16	Loved the 2 FULL weeks off at the end of December. Not a fan of the very short break between ESY and the start of Professional Development in August. Very little consecutive time off for ESY workers.	12/11/2025 10:40 AM
17	Liked not having a workshop during winter break	12/11/2025 10:35 AM
18	Liked not having the professional development day, not during the winter break	12/11/2025 10:35 AM
19	I don't want homecoming to be too soon when we get back to school. Let's spread it out and have homecoming on the last weekend of September instead of the second week of September.	12/11/2025 10:09 AM
20	One welcome back day and then workdays to get ready for the school year.	12/11/2025 10:02 AM

21	I loved the noon dismissals before MEA and Thanksgiving break!	12/11/2025 9:47 AM
22	The fact that we had only 2 weeks before we went back to work was not fun.	12/11/2025 9:05 AM
23	I don't like that there are no days off from spring break all the way to the end of the year.	12/11/2025 9:00 AM
24	The 3 weeks of summer school. Most students do not attend the 3 week full session. Go back to 2 weeks full days M-F	12/11/2025 8:55 AM
25	Dislike the late start of summer school. Dislike still having 3 weeks of summer school. - most kids at blind school were gone at least 1 of the weeks due to having other camps.	12/11/2025 8:53 AM
26	I liked the start/end dates Dislike full workday before Thanksgiving Would like more breaks in the spring	12/11/2025 8:16 AM
27	I do not like half days and the teacher work days are not consistent with faribault public schools	12/11/2025 8:09 AM
28	Nothing	12/11/2025 8:03 AM
29	Dislikes: -Summer school was unnecessarily 3 short weeks instead of 2 full weeks -Summer school started too late in July and school started too early in August (making it difficult to do anything in between them). Additionally, many other districts put the wrong dates in their IEPs since it is usually earlier in July -Started school quite early in August Likes: -Having a day after semester end of both semesters to do paperwork/clean/organize as there is rarely time during the year for such tasks	12/11/2025 7:31 AM
30	N/A	12/11/2025 7:07 AM
31	it's perfect!	12/11/2025 6:58 AM
32	Would like less breaks and rather work	12/11/2025 12:42 AM
33	I don't have a strong opinion either way.	12/10/2025 8:07 PM
34	Not enough workday for teachers/staff only. please allow one full weekend for dorm to open so students can experience dorm life during the weekend- they live once.	12/10/2025 7:58 PM
35	Like the idea with having 3 weeks of ESY every summer. Like seeing students continue with educations.	12/10/2025 7:42 PM
36	Too much all together trainings at the beginning of the year. Give us more work time to prepare for the school year.	12/10/2025 6:39 PM
37	Need more trainings offers and dorm mtgs when students are dismissed or long weekend happens	12/10/2025 6:06 PM
38	Summer school should start the Monday after 4th of July! No need to start a week later. We've never done that before and it cuts too much into August	12/10/2025 5:16 PM
39	It perfect	12/10/2025 5:11 PM

Q7 Any other ideas/suggestions that you'd like the committee to consider as we develop our 2025-2026 school calendar?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 57

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I think we need a day during the all staff welcome back to review with staff resources, location of forms, policies, procedures, and why we need to do things the way we do.	12/23/2025 10:56 AM
2	Can we have 1/2 day for the friday before winter break?	12/19/2025 6:41 PM
3	add a half day before winter break begins; once a month have 1 a half day; February, April and maybe May could use 4 day-school week	12/19/2025 3:49 PM
4	Build in professional development/training on MEA days; doesn't have to be required but school could provide training that apply to state licensure requirements or other professional development opportunities.	12/18/2025 2:45 PM
5	The 2026-2027 school calendar should include more workdays and curriculum days, as well as a professional development day instead of having meetings after 3 p.m. This change would be more manageable for teachers. Additionally, I would like to see a professional development session for the paraprofessionals as well.	12/16/2025 10:43 PM
6	you mean your 2026-2027 calendar? think about staff burn-out, we have a good amount of tough kids to work with and staff get burnt out fast. If you don't think about staff burn-out you won't have any staff to work here anymore.	12/15/2025 3:27 PM
7	Para requires more professional development for their student assignment. I work with ASD students, and there are no resources or professional development opportunities. Due to student assignments, professional development is frequently not applied to para. We might want to break down the professional development so that specific ones can benefit from it and support their students. Para could have their professional development during Teacher's day.	12/15/2025 12:35 PM
8	Consider scheduling professional development option during MEA break.	12/15/2025 12:32 PM
9	4 days work weeks would be amazing. Do it :)	12/13/2025 2:50 PM
10	Monthly assigned short day or no school (ex. Fridays) whereas staff are given this day/time to do professional development, training, or curriculum work. Other schools have this implemented in their schools, something to consider especially we are a special education school.	12/13/2025 12:19 PM
11	I would suggest moving ESY to June, a week or two after the end of the school year. I also believe that ESY should only be two weeks Mon-Fri.	12/12/2025 2:50 PM
12	I love the idea of 4-day school weeks scattered throughout the year, providing extra breaks. If this requires starting earlier and ending a bit later to maintain 180 school days, that is acceptable. :)	12/12/2025 8:46 AM
13	Go back to 2 week ESY Align our year end work day with paperwork due dates No school at all the day before Thanksgiving	12/11/2025 1:37 PM
14	Too Many snack Items, Everywhere all the time. This should not be a tool.	12/11/2025 11:48 AM
15	N/A	12/11/2025 10:58 AM
16	Two 5 day (8-3) weeks of ESY, NOT three 4 day (8-2) weeks. If I were remaining at MSA, I would not offer to work ESY again as I was not a fan of the three 4 day weeks of ESY. It left me with very weird breaks in work, so unemployment, summer work opportunities, and daycare was hard to navigate. I think there would be more interest in ESY staff if the schedule made more sense...	12/11/2025 10:40 AM
17	More prep time that first week to get ready for the school year.	12/11/2025 10:02 AM

18	Programs like Holiday programs should be at 1pm instead of 10:30 am so parents that come don't have to take a whole day off of work. Also, they usually take students home. So we could utilize the morning for school.	12/11/2025 9:59 AM
19	I strongly support having more long weekends spread throughout the year. Especially during the 2nd semester where there's less holidays. Thank you!	12/11/2025 9:47 AM
20	Why not start ESY on July 6th? If the Holiday is our excuse, then why do we have school on any week after a holiday? OR why not move ESY to Tuesday through Friday for the first week? Starting before FPS is a good idea for kids taking Gen Ed classes over there because they can orient themselves to the building and their classrooms without having 500 other kids to deal with in the hallways.	12/11/2025 9:05 AM
21	Move summer school back to two weeks or start it earlier in July after the 4th of July. It shouldn't be the last three weeks of July.	12/11/2025 9:02 AM
22	2 full weeks of summer school, not 3 short weeks.	12/11/2025 9:00 AM
23	We should start training Aug 31. Going to June 11 and then 3 weeks of summer school is way too much child care for some parents. We didn't take this job because it pays great, we took it to be with our kids in the summers.	12/11/2025 8:53 AM
24	Please consider that the more extensive facilities projects tend to be planned for the summer break. If you choose to start school earlier, there is little time to complete projects due to ESY and the rush to prepare rooms/buildings for the new school year.	12/11/2025 8:50 AM
25	An alternate or stretched calendar for those that provide IFSP services	12/11/2025 8:16 AM
26	It would be nice since some of us have students in the Public schools to run the same schedule as they do.	12/11/2025 8:14 AM
27	MSAD is stationed in Faribault and should follow Faribault public school calendar	12/11/2025 8:09 AM
28	Nothing	12/11/2025 8:03 AM
29	Need a long weekend in late April, it is a long stretch for both staff and students to go from mid/late March till the end of May	12/11/2025 7:31 AM
30	N/A	12/11/2025 7:07 AM
31	no suggestions I can think of at this time.	12/11/2025 6:58 AM
32	Friday before Easter and Monday after Easter I would like to see as no school days. Time to be with family. Not just another weekend.	12/11/2025 6:22 AM
33	Mother's Day is difficult for families. It would be nice to make that a 3 day weekend	12/11/2025 1:52 AM
34	None	12/10/2025 8:07 PM
35	Would love to have more circulum set up time, i felt i barely had preparation time before school started, needed more time and support	12/10/2025 7:58 PM
36	2 weeks for Christmas	12/10/2025 7:16 PM
37	1 welcome back training day, the rest work days to prepare for the school year.	12/10/2025 6:39 PM
38	I love the suggestion of 4 day school week. I see many benefits of a "4-Day School Week" including: 1. Improved Attendance • Students and staff often miss fewer days. • Appointments can be scheduled on the off-day, meaning less classroom disruption. 2. Reduced Burnout • Students and teachers get an extra day to rest, catch up on work, or take care of personal needs. • Can reduce stress and improve mental health. 3. Better Teacher Recruitment & Retention • A shorter week is appealing to teachers, especially in rural or hard-to-staff districts. • Helps schools keep experienced staff and attract new talent. 4. Cost Savings for Districts • Savings on transportation, food service, utilities, and substitute teachers. • Districts can reallocate savings to student supports, programs, or staffing. 5. Increased Student Engagement • When students are more rested, they participate better. • Less "midweek slump" and more focused instruction. 6. More Family Flexibility • Families can schedule appointments, travel, and childcare more intentionally. • High-school students can work, volunteer, or attend job-training programs on the off day. 7. Better Work–Life Balance • Both staff and students get more time for: • Family • Health appointments • Personal responsibilities • Extracurriculars	12/10/2025 5:17 PM

39	Please take these surveys into consideration!	12/10/2025 5:16 PM
40	Start early (Aug. 24) finish (May 28) every week is a 4-day week/ 3-day weekend	12/10/2025 5:12 PM
41	Yes, in April have no break it too long full month and student be home with family the Easter	12/10/2025 5:11 PM