

FAQ #1-(4-Day School Week)

This information is based on the 4-Day School Week Survey that was sent out to parents on Monday, December 2nd.

Here are the results of the parent survey that were previously shared out:

60.5% would support the 4-Day School Week.

39.5% would not support the 4-Day School Week.

Students in grades 4th-11th completed the student survey. There were 183 responses.

Here are the results of the student survey:

56.3% would support the 4-Day School Week.

43.7% would not support the 4-Day School Week.

There were 69 questions/comments typed into the box of the parent survey. Some were comments in favor of and others were opposed. Questions were pulled from the survey, put in an FAQ, and are listed below.

Questions/**Answers:**

1. Why was this a one-question survey?

Our goal was to keep this first survey simple. We wanted to know where both students and parents stood with the 4-Day School Week leading into the December School Board Meeting to help advise the Board on whether they wanted to continue to study this or not. We sent out an additional survey on January 10th to get more information on childcare and food insecurity needs. There will be a final survey sent out the week of February 3rd to gain additional information. That information will be shared out as well. This will also guide the Collins-Maxwell School Board in making a final decision on whether to move to a 4-Day School Week or not. This will be a discussion and action item on the February 19th School Board Meeting Agenda.

2. Was the informational meeting on November 19th recorded?

The November 19th Informational Meeting was not recorded. In hindsight,

that would have been helpful. The link to the 4-Day School Week information, including the November 19th Presentation, can be found on the District's website. [4-Day School Week Information - Collins-Maxwell CSD](#)

3. We are hearing a lot about staff retention and recruitment. How will this benefit students?

Research shows that having a high-quality staff is the most important factor in the students' learning process. The ability to retain and recruit that staff is the most important piece in having them at our school for our students. A 4-Day School Week will also ensure less staff absences and will keep teachers consistently in classrooms delivering quality instruction to students.

4. What if everyone around us also goes to a 4-Day School Week?

We care foremost about our own students. If a 4-Day School Week becomes the standard, and we have to find a new way to stand out as a school district or employer, we will address that issue if it arises.

5. Will there be childcare options on Monday?

We are working on an option to provide childcare in Collins. That will be explained in FAQ #2.

6. Will meals be served on Mondays?

We are working with other groups to provide food for those who need assistance. That will be explained in FAQ #2.

7. What do teachers think about the 4-Day School Week?

This was discussed with the staff right away. They were surveyed, and 86% were in favor of when the survey was given in October.

8. Will hourly staff work 4 days as well?

Hourly staff will work a schedule that makes sense for their role. As they do

now, staff will work with students when students are at school Tuesday-Friday. There may be a possibility of working a few hours on Mondays. Since we will still need to meet the 1080 hours required by the state, their total hours will not change significantly. We value our staff and do not want to lose them. We will adjust their pay rates as needed to prevent pay cuts for the roles which will see a reduction in hours.

9. Have other districts experienced staff retention rates when they went to a 4-Day School Week?

Yes, schools in Iowa with a 4-Day School Week have experienced better staff retention rates. However, the 4-Day School Week Concept is fairly new in Iowa aside from Cardinal and Waco. They have experienced strong staff retention rates for years.

10. Do schools on a 4-Day School Week actually have a larger pool of candidates when hiring staff?

Of all the schools that we have talked to that operate under a 4-Day School Week, they have a larger pool of candidates when hiring. Saydel, for example before going to a 4-Day School Week, went from 1- 4 applicants for 3 different positions to 8 or more applicants for each of those positions.

11. Would a 4-Day School Week increase or decrease the number of students that are open-enrolled in or out?

This is unknown at this time. Other schools in Iowa have noted that the net open enrollment in/out when switching has been minimal one way or the other.

12. Will a 4-Day School Week teach students less of a work ethic?

A 4-Day School Week will not teach students less of a work ethic. When entering the work force or heading to college, students will face a variety of schedules that differ from the traditional 5-day school week. There are many jobs where employees also work less than 5 days a week or non-traditional hours. This situation also arises each school year when we take time off for Summer Break, Winter Break, and Spring Break.

13. Will this benefit high school students as far as doing work-based learning?

Yes, students could participate in some work-based learning or apprenticeships on Mondays where currently their schedule may not allow for this opportunity with having to attend school 5 days a week. Those students that currently have a job could also pick up additional hours on Mondays if they chose to do so.

14. If students are in school longer, how will you keep their attention span?

The current plan is to only add 30 minutes to each school day. This results in adding a few minutes to each period. We have the benefit of learning from other schools what has worked for them on this and other topics.

15. Would students need more breaks if the days are longer during those 4 days?

Yes, teachers are continuously offering brain breaks and finding ways to keep students actively engaged in learning.

16. Are there concerns with students getting on the bus earlier in the morning?

Yes, this is a concern. We would make this concern known to our transportation director so we could structure routes the best way possible to address this concern. Teachers and students handled this change very well when we added minutes to our school day in 2021 due to construction. Our proposed start times would be the same as the 2021-2022 school year schedule.

17. Is there a way to keep all weeks to 4 days and extend the school year a few days at the end of the year?

This could certainly be an option and would be up to the Calendar Committee to decide.

18. Would there still be a spring break?

This would also be up to the Calendar Committee to decide.

19. Is year-round school an option instead?

No, there are year-round elementary schools in the state of Iowa but no

K-12 Schools that are year-round. That would be very difficult with summer activity schedules. That is not being explored right now at Collins-Maxwell.

20. Would classroom instruction have to be set up differently with a 4-Day School Week?

Yes, see Question 14 & 15. There would need to be professional development designated time this spring to address this if Collins-Maxwell decides to go to a 4-Day Week.

21. Will a 4-Day School Week contribute to a more positive culture, especially at the high school level?

This major change has many elements that will contribute to a more positive culture with the staff and especially teenagers.

22. Are there concerns that there may not be a safe place for some students on Mondays when there is no school?

There are some very good ideas in the works to address this concern.

23. If the decision is made to NOT go with a 4-Day School Week, will we go back to a Wednesday Early Out?

This would be decided by the Calendar Committee as far as next steps go.

24. Is this a step toward consolidation?

No. In fact, this is a step in the direction of preventing the need for consolidation.