

FAQ #2 (Childcare & Food Insecurities)

These two questions are based off of the survey that was sent out on January 10th to obtain information on childcare and food insecurity needs if the Collins-Maxwell Community School District moves to a 4-Day School Week.

1. Will there be childcare options on Monday?

There was a separate survey sent out on Friday, January 10th and closed on Friday, January 17th to address childcare and food insecurity needs. In that survey, 14 families indicated that they have a childcare need and would commit to an option offered at the school that would be subject to a fee structure. Based on this survey, we also know that of the 14 families that indicated this need, there are a total of 25 students needing childcare. The administrative team spoke with DHS for the school to become an exempt, non-licensed program for a nominal fee per child on those Mondays. We plan to identify these families and students so we can work closely with them to ensure that they have this option for childcare. There will need to be two staff members at a minimum and maybe more depending on the final number. If you did not initially indicate that you needed childcare, there will still be an opportunity to sign up if the 4-Day School Week is approved by the Collins-Maxwell School Board on February 19th. More information will be provided when the time comes.

2. Will meals be served on Mondays?

For lunch on these Mondays through the school program childcare option, students would either bring their lunch, or the food service staff will prepare a sack lunch that could be purchased like normal through the student's lunch account.

We will partner with the Food Bank of Iowa to open a Food Pantry in Maxwell. We would serve students in both Collins and Maxwell. We plan to do that yet this spring whether the District moves to a 4-Day School week or not. There were 38 "yes" responses on the survey indicating that there is a need for a food pantry. Look for more information on that this spring.

We also had 39 "yes" responses indicating that they would utilize meals through Nevada Food at First. Currently, Nevada Food at First delivers meals throughout Story County on Monday and Thursday evenings right around supper time. These are container types of meals where you just have to warm these up. Right

now, there are two delivery stops in Maxwell and none in Collins. In talking with Nevada Food at First, they would work with the school to add a delivery stop at both the school in Collins and Maxwell. These meals would be free. The school will supply the sign-up information. There are various ways to sign-up, and it is easy to sign-up each week. There is no income verification or anything related to these meals. With these options, we believe we are offering solutions to address any food insecurity concerns for those Mondays where there would not be school if the District moves to a 4-Day School Week.