

# SLIDELL ISD

## Town Hall QR Code Responses

For the 2026 - 2027  
School Year

### Question:

I ride the bus and already wake up early. If school starts earlier, that would mean students who ride the bus would have to wake up even earlier. Many students might not get the recommended 8 hours of sleep, which could make them more tired and less focused at school. Is this a good idea for students, especially those who ride the bus? If this change is implemented, how would the district address this concern?

### Response:

We recognize that adequate sleep is essential for students' health and academic performance. While the district establishes school hours and transportation routes, ensuring students receive proper rest ultimately depends on consistent nightly routines at home. Families would need to adjust schedules as needed to support healthy sleep habits.

Each summer, bus routes are carefully evaluated and adjusted as needed. When routes are developed and split, time is always a key factor in determining efficiency and student ride length, regardless of the district calendar. This practice of reviewing and refining routes will continue whether the district adopts a 4-day or 5-day calendar. Families should also be on the lookout for the annual transportation form to submit during the summer, so we can ensure our plans are as accurate and up-to-date as possible.

Based on preliminary calculations, the proposed adjustment would add approximately 10 minutes to the start of the day and 15 minutes to the end of the day. Opening school slightly earlier may also allow some parents the option to drop off their children rather than rely on bus transportation, as the current later start time can make that difficult. The same consideration applies in the afternoons, as some parents are unable to pick up their children due to early dismissal times.



**Question:**

The presentation at last night's meeting was informative and made a strong case for considering a 4-day week. My main concern is the longer school days. I currently have a 1st grader and an incoming Pre-K student. Full-day Pre-K already feels like a long day for younger students compared to districts that offer half-day options. Even adding a few more minutes to each day can be challenging for elementary students and impact their morning and afternoon routines.



Is implementing a 4-day week the only option? This year, when 10 minutes were added to the end of the day and some Fridays changed from early release to full days, many families noticed their children seemed more exhausted. Would returning to earlier dismissal times and having all Fridays as early release be an option?

**Response:**

The purpose of the town hall meetings was to present the 4-day calendar option, along with the rationale and research behind it, since most people are already familiar with a traditional 5-day schedule. If a 5-day calendar is ultimately adopted, suggestions such as adjusting dismissal times or revisiting consistent early-release Fridays will be taken into consideration.

**Question:**

If the district moves to a 4-day week, will staff still receive five local paid leave days per year in addition to the five state days?

**Response:**

Once a calendar is adopted, administration will meet with staff to finalize leave days, regardless of whether a 4-day or 5-day calendar is selected. The district will continue reviewing information from other districts, staff absence trends, and additional data to make the most informed decision possible.

**Community Resource Shared:**

Community members shared information about Dolores County Schools in Colorado, which has operated on a 4-day week for more than 20 years in a district of approximately 255 students.

We appreciate community members providing additional information and resources to support thoughtful discussion during this decision-making process.

**Question:**

If we remain on a 5-day calendar, would the district consider a more traditional daily schedule ending around 3:00 p.m., with Fridays following the same schedule as Monday through Thursday?

**Response:**

Throughout this process, the district has consistently heard that families value schedule consistency. If a 5-day calendar is adopted, suggestions regarding daily start and end times will be carefully considered as part of that decision.