

SLIDELL ISD

**Town Hall Calendar
Feed Back (Feb 25th)**

**For the 2026 - 2027
School Year**

Community Questions & Responses for Bilingual Town Hall

(Spanish translation provided by Yanet Fernandez. We are committed to ensuring all families have access to this information.)

Will there be a survey to determine which calendar we use?

Yes. A final survey will be provided to gather community feedback.



However, it is important to understand that the final recommendation will be reviewed by the District Educational Improvement Committee (DEIC), which makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees after reviewing all stakeholder input and data.

QR codes for the final survey will also be sent home on paper to ensure accessibility for all families.

When can we decide whether we go to 4 days or stay at 5 days?

The district is currently in the information-gathering phase.

The process includes:



- Research and data review
- Feedback from surveys
- Town hall meetings
- Conversations with other districts
- Review by DEIC and make proposal
- Administration Review of DEIC proposal
- Board approval administration proposal

No final decision has been made at this time.

What is the percentage chance of moving to a 4-day week?



There is not a percentage at this time. The district is still collecting information. The DEIC will review all data before any recommendation is made.



If my child receives special education services, will those services change?

No. All required services will continue to be provided. Student services will not be reduced.



If a 4-day week is approved, will it remain consistent all year?

Yes. If a calendar option is approved, that schedule will remain consistent for the entire academic year.

There is also consideration of beginning the school year in August with a 5-day week to allow students and staff time to adjust before transitioning.



Will the school day be much longer?

The proposed change would only add approximately 10–15 minutes to each end of the instructional day.

Bus routes would run slightly earlier/later, but only by a small margin.

Dr. Heskett shared that any added minutes would be used strategically – incorporating movement, creativity, and purposeful instruction rather than simply extending seat time.

Other districts shared examples such as:

- Two 20-minute recess periods for younger grades
- Strategic scheduling adjustments to support engagement



What would athletics look like?

Coaches would design schedules that meet UIL requirements and student needs. Communication would be shared in advance.

Regarding travel:

- We will be in a different region next year.
- District travel is expected to remain similar overall.
- Playoff travel varies by advancement and opponent.

We understand concerns about adding instructional minutes and then traveling for games. These considerations are part of ongoing discussions.

How does this impact teachers?

This conversation is about both students and staff.

Many districts report that a 4-day week has:

- Improved teacher recruitment
- Increased teacher retention
- Supported staff morale

Attracting and retaining strong teachers directly benefits students

Will “blue bags” still be available?

Yes. Blue bags will continue and may be increased to support longer weekends if needed.

Will childcare be provided on Fridays?

Data shared from other districts indicates that the need for Friday childcare significantly decreased within the first six weeks of implementation as families adjusted.

We will continue evaluating community needs as part of this decision-making process.

Instructional Time vs. Screen Time

A comment was shared about prioritizing time with teachers over time on devices. The district’s goal is always to maximize meaningful instructional time with teachers and reduce unnecessary screen time whenever possible.