

Calendar Survey

Results and Analysis

Wilson County Schools
School Year 2017-2018



Purpose of the Study

Wilson County Schools Calendar Survey asked parents and guardians and employees for feedback and preferences on different options for future school calendars. Results will be used to inform the academic calendar for next two school years.

K12 *Insight* partnered with district staff to develop the survey, which addressed the following topics:

- Preferences for fall break, Thanksgiving break, and winter break
- Future calendar preferences
- Impact of selecting Option 3

The survey was open Sept. 5–25. Pre-survey communications included letters/emails, website news item, newsletter item, media news brief, FAQs, phone call, social media posts, text messages, and talking points.

Reminders were sent Sept. 8, 12, 15, 18, and 22.

The survey was available in English and Spanish.

Details of the Study

Email Invitations with unique survey links were sent to parents and guardians and employees. Wilson County Schools and K12 *Insight* staff worked collaboratively to ensure employees and parents received email invitations to the Calendar Survey.

Survey participants were able to access more information about the district calendar via Let's Talk! Participants were provided information about the 2017-2018 school year calendar along with certain criteria that must be met in any future calendar, including:

- At least 180 days for classroom instruction
- Five days of in-service credit for teachers to be used for professional development, not including stockpile days
- One day for parent-teacher conferences, which can be split into half days or composed of after-school hours
- Four administrative days as designated by the local board of education upon recommendation of the director of schools
- School districts may exceed the 6.5 hours of daily instructional time required by law for the full academic year and be credited with the additional instructional time as stockpile days; extending the school day by one half hour allows a school district to stockpile 13 days, which is the maximum number allowed

Let's Talk! was used so participants could learn more about the calendar options, ask questions, and provide suggestions or comments. More than 700 dialogues were received from Wilson County Schools employees and parents. These comments were reviewed by Wilson County Schools staff on an ongoing basis. See slide 23 for more details.

During the survey window, typographical errors were identified in the calendar options linked in the survey and on the Let's Talk! page. All reminder messages noted the errors. The corrected calendars were linked in the survey and on the Let's Talk! page.

During the survey window, Wilson County Schools staff requested that 71 additional parents and employees receive survey invitations. Those requests were handled on a rolling basis throughout the survey window.

Understanding the Results

This report summarizes survey results and breaks them down by participant type (parent or guardian, employee, and both parent or guardian and employee), school level (elementary, middle, high, nontraditional, and K-8), central office, and zone (1-7). Classifications for school zones and school level and type are presented on slide 17.

Results do not reflect random sampling; therefore, they should not be generalized to all parents and guardians or employees. Rather, results reflect only the perceptions and opinions of survey participants.

Findings for each item in the report exclude participants who did not answer. In charts and graphs, data labels less than 5 percent are not shown.

Most questions were voluntary; however, individuals were required to indicate which role best describes them (parent/guardian, employee, or both parent/guardian and employee). This information was required to disaggregate survey results. Most survey answer options used rank order or a 5-point Likert scale.

There were two open-ended items included in the survey:

- Please share why you chose your most preferred option.
- Please share any concerns you have about the school calendar and/or scheduling of school breaks.

“Please share why you chose your most preferred option” was analyzed using the constant comparative analysis (CCA) technique to identify common themes. CCA is an analytical approach where all units of data are compared with all other units to discover properties and dimensions in the data (O’Connor et. al, 2008).

Key Insights

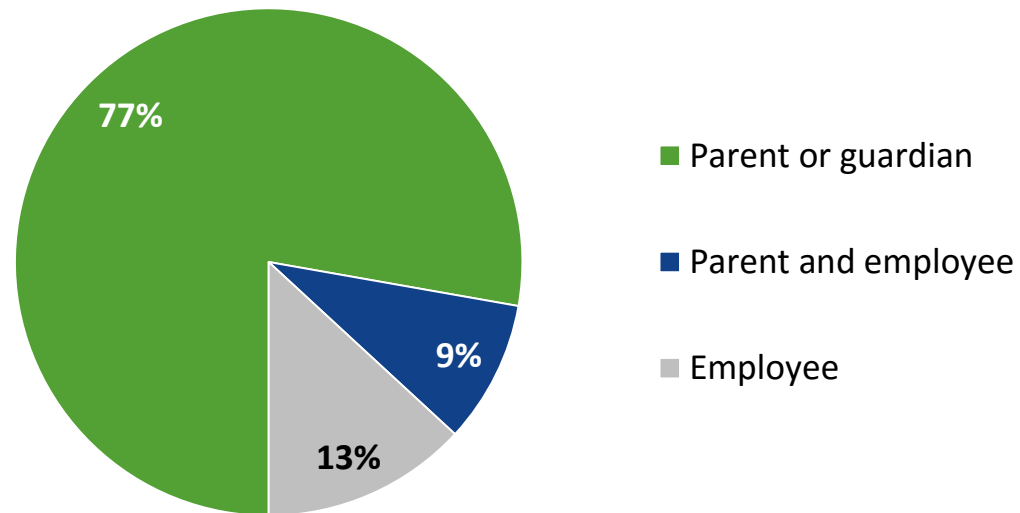
- Overall, there were 8,158 completed responses which reflected a **44% response rate** among those who received an email invitation. The majority of respondents (77%) were parents or guardians of a Wilson County School System student.
- Survey participants prefer keeping the fall break as **10 consecutive days**, having Thanksgiving break as **5 days overall** (including 3 school days), and keeping winter break as **10 days**.
- Participants were asked about their preferences for future calendars. **Option 2 was the first choice**, followed by Option 1 and Option 3.
- Participants were asked about what potential impact adopting Option 3 would have on their families. **Forty percent of participants said that adopting Option 3 would have a very negative or negative impact on their family vacation plans.**
- When open-ended items were analyzed, participants who selected Option 1 as their top choice noted their preference for having a shorter fall break. Whereas, participants who selected Option 2 noted their preference for an extended fall break (two weeks) that would allow them to take vacation during non-peak times. Participants who selected Option 3 said starting school later was the most important factor, along with having longer summer and winter breaks as opposed to a fall break.
- **It was important to see if there were any differences in preferences among subgroups** (e.g., elementary parents and guardians, school employees vs. central office staff). The only major difference was found when looking at central office employees preferences. Central office employees selected Option 1 as their first choice, compared with the overall findings in which participants selected Option 2 as their first choice.

Participation

Of the 18,605 invitations, there were 8,158 completed responses which reflected a **44 percent response rate** among those who received an email invitation. More than three in four (77%) respondents were parents and guardians of a Wilson County School System student. Nineteen surveys were completed in Spanish.

Responding Group	Number of Invitations Delivered (NMax)	Number of Responses (N)	Response Rate (%)
Participants	18,605	8,158	44%

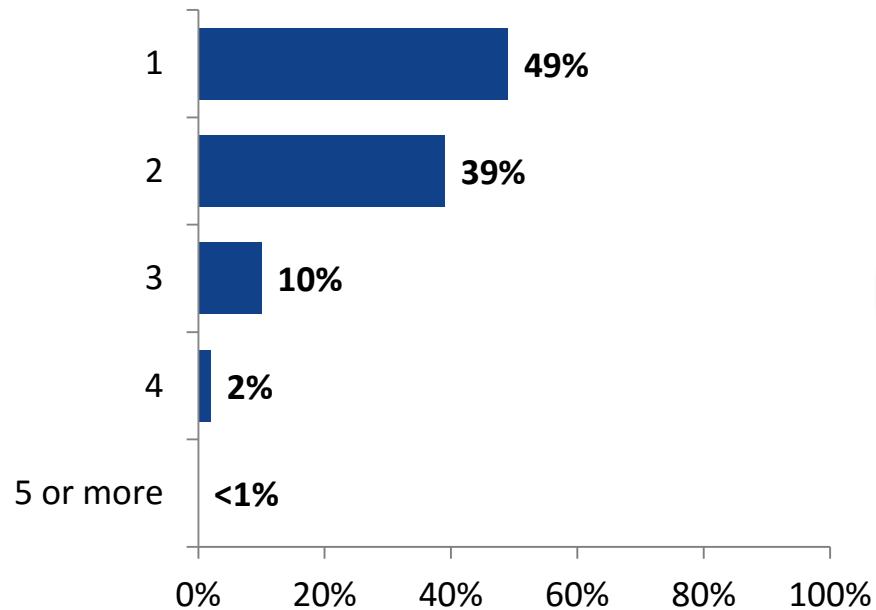
Which best describes you? (N=8,158)



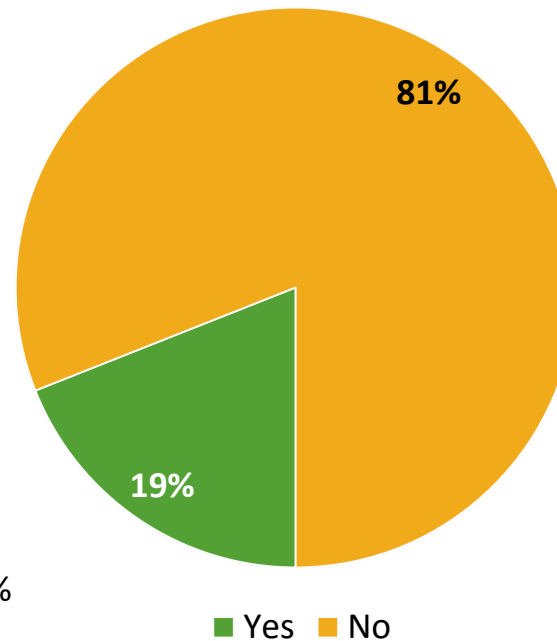
Participation: Parents and Guardians

Parent and guardians of Wilson County Schools students were asked additional questions. The highest percentage of participating parents (49%) have **one child** enrolled in the school system, 81% do **not have children who are not yet school aged**, and the strong majority (97%) do **not have** a child or children enrolled in Lebanon Special School District.

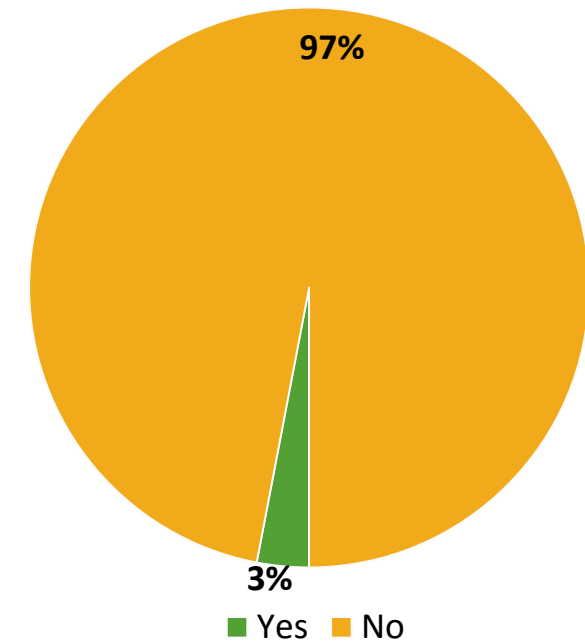
How many of your children are enrolled in the Wilson County School System? (N=7,078)



Do you have children who are not yet school aged? (N=7,069)



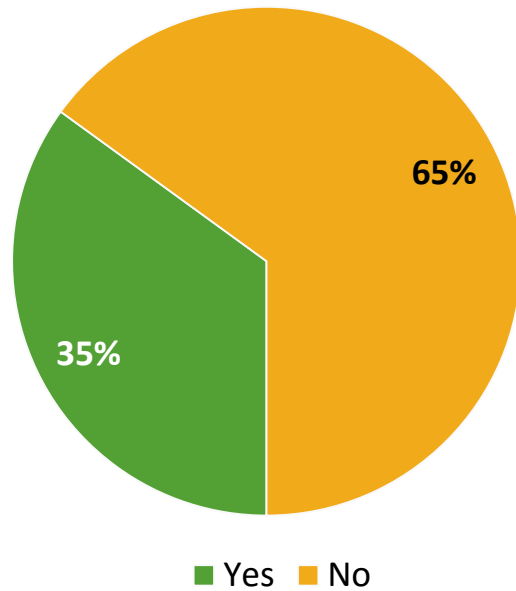
Do you have a child or children enrolled in Lebanon Special School District? (N=7,047)



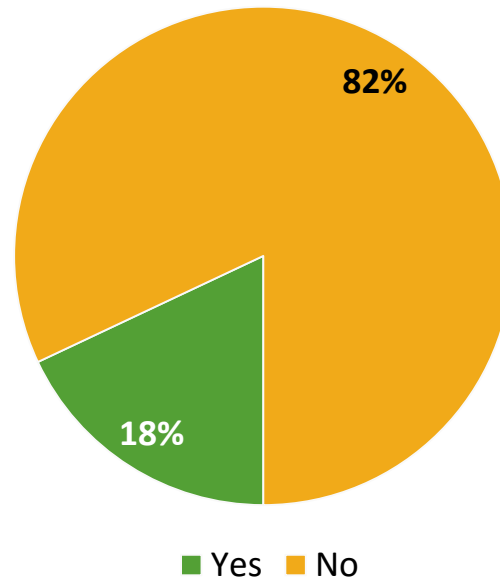
Participation: Employees

Wilson County Schools employees were asked additional questions. Nearly two in three employees (65%) **do not teach a course which has a TNReady assessment**. A strong majority (82%) **do not have a job that requires them to work during fall break**. The majority of participants teach grades 3-8.

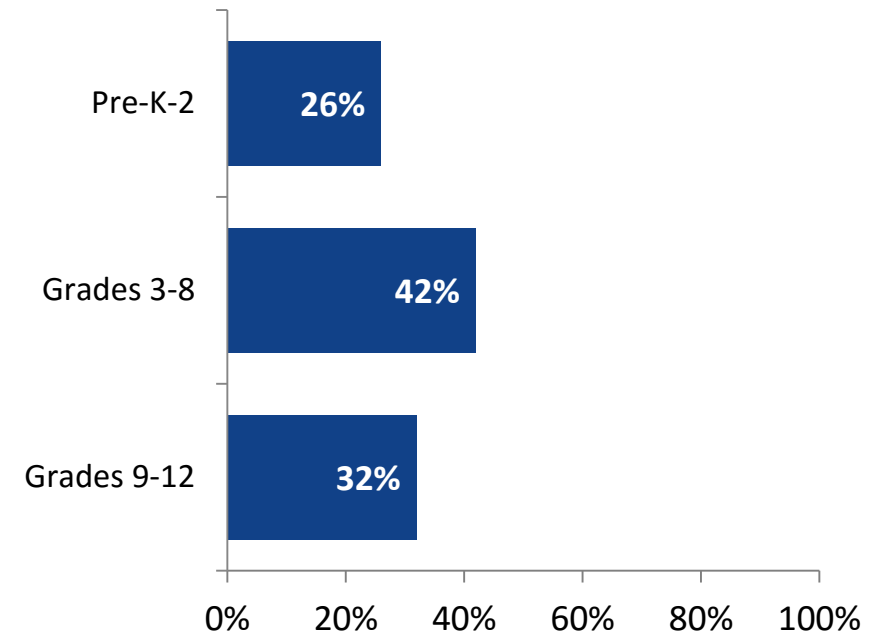
Do you teach a course which has a TNReady assessment? (N=1,616)



Does your job as a teacher and/or coach require you to work during fall break? (N=1,589)



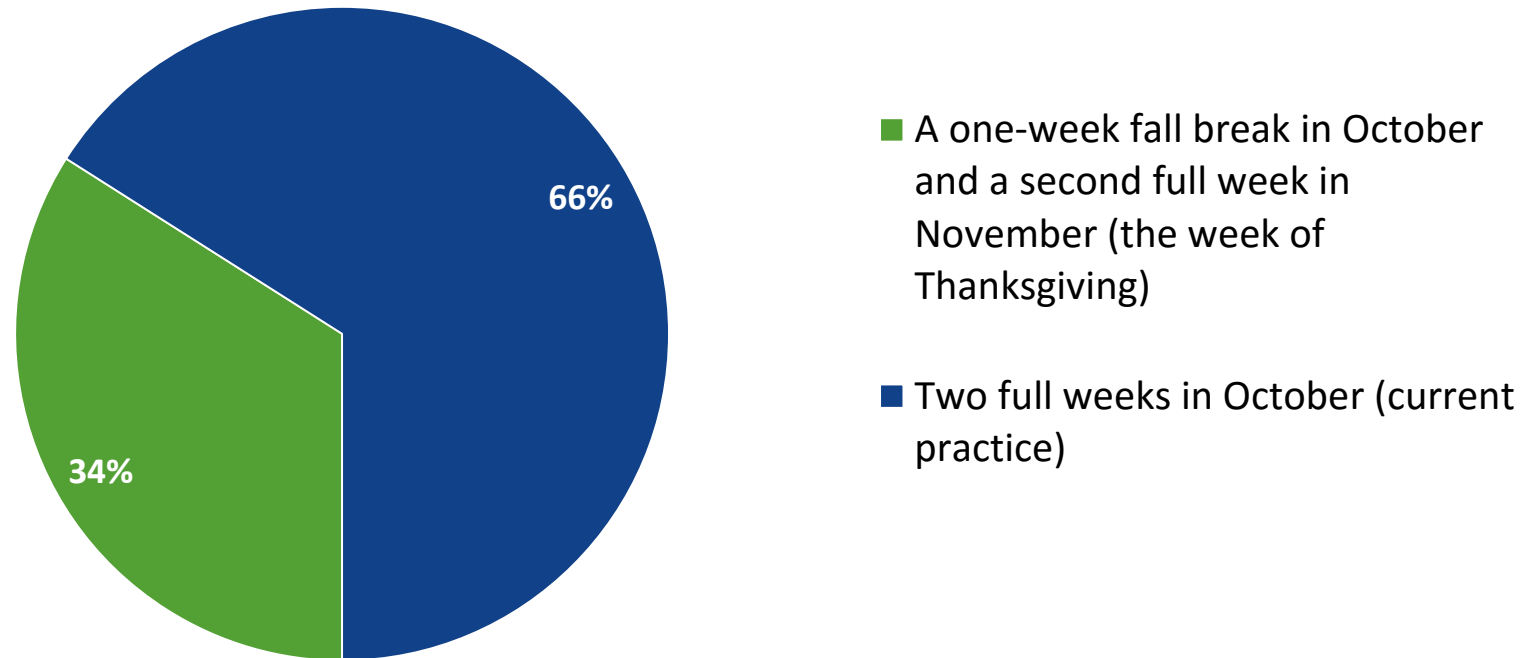
In which grade band do you teach? (N=1,407)



Participation: Employees (Continued)

Among those who do have to work during fall break, two-thirds (66%) said they would prefer **two full weeks** in October.

You indicated that your job requires you to work during fall break. Which of the following would you prefer? (N=276)



Overall Findings

Break Preferences

Keeping the fall break as 10 consecutive days, having Thanksgiving break as 5 days overall (including 3 school days), and keeping winter break as 10 days all received the first overall rank. These preferences align with a blend between Option 1 and 2 calendars, respectively.

School Breaks	Options	Weighted Score	Relative Weighted Score	Overall Rank
Fall Break	Keep the fall break as 10 consecutive days	11893	100	1
	Have five days of fall break in October and 5 days the week of Thanksgiving	10182	86	2
	Shorten the fall break from 10 days to four days	1478	12	3
	Remove fall break	819	7	4
Thanksgiving Break	Thanksgiving break would be 5 days overall, including 3 school days	13772	100	1
	Thanksgiving break would be 9 days overall, including 5 school days	10330	75	2
Winter Break	Keep the winter break as 10 days	15483	100	1
	Shorten winter break to 7 days	8841	57	2

Three Calendar Options

Participants were provided the number of school days in fall break, Thanksgiving break, and winter break in the 2017-2018 school calendar as well as what is proposed in Option 1, Option 2, and Option 3. Additional detail was provided for the number of school days in winter break for students and teachers. The major difference between the options were that Option 1 reduces the number of school days in fall break from 10 to 5 days and that Option 3 removes fall break. See table below.

	2017-18 School Calendar	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Number of school days in fall break (total days, including weekends)	10 (16)	5 (9)	10 (16)	N/A
Number of school days in Thanksgiving break (total days, including weekends)	3 (5)	5 (9)	3 (5)	5 (9)
Number of school days in winter break, for students (total days, including weekends)	12 (18)	12 (18)	10 (16)	10 (16)
Number of school days in winter break, for teachers (total days, including weekends)	10 (14)	10 (14)	9 (13)	9 (13)

Future Calendars

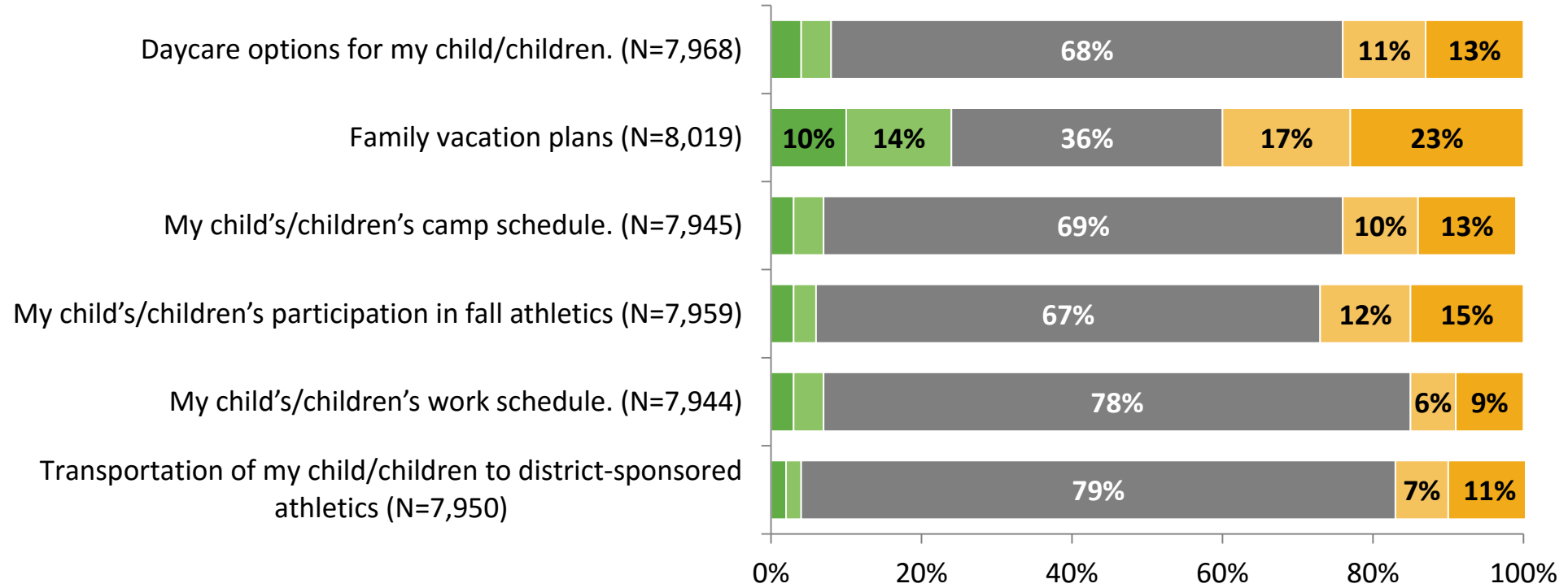
Option 2 received the overall number one rank, followed by Option 1, and Option 3.

Response	Weighted Score	Relative Weighted Score	Overall Rank
Option 2	11470	100	1
Option 1	10624	93	2
Option 3	2124	19	3

Future Calendars (Continued)

Participants were asked about the potential impact adopting Option 3 would have on their family. **Forty percent of participants said that adopting Option 3 would have a very negative or negative impact on their family vacation plans.**

Please review the following items and rate the impact this change to the first day of school would have on your family.



■ Very Positive Impact
 ■ Positive Impact
 ■ No Impact
 ■ Negative Impact
 ■ Very Negative Impact

Thematic Analysis

One open-ended item was analyzed to find common themes in the responses. It was requested by the district to disaggregate the open-ended responses using the top ranked calendar option selected by participants. The majority of participants selected Option 2 (N=2,530) as their first option.

Q: Please share why you chose your most preferred option.		
Option 1 (N=1,708)	Option 2 (N=2,530)	Option 3 (N=430)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the comments were about how participants like having a shorter fall break. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several participants noted that two weeks at fall break allows families to take an extended vacation. They also noted that students and teachers return to school refreshed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A majority of comments centered on starting school later. They preferred to have longer summer and winter breaks, as opposed to fall break.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants said that 10 days for fall break is too long. Participants said it would be difficult to negotiate work and daycare schedules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They noted that Thanksgiving break does not need to be longer than three days and were not enthusiastic about the idea of removing fall break (as proposed in Option 3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several participants noted that they liked starting school after Labor Day, saying a longer summer break would make a fall break unnecessary.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several participants preferred to have a shorter fall break with a longer Thanksgiving break. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants preferred to have fewer breaks for extended periods of time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants expressed disinterest in having fall break. Some of the limitations of fall break were that parents find it difficult to find childcare.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some comments described having breaks dispersed throughout the year that are shorter in duration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several participants noted that they would be fine with Option 1 or 2. 	

Disaggregated Findings

Description of the Disaggregated Findings

This section of the report will disaggregate findings by participant type (parent and guardian, employee, both parent or guardian and employee), zone (1–7), and school level (elementary, middle, high, nontraditional, and K-8).

- The **zones** are representative of parents who have a children or children attending one of the schools within the school board zone. This information was provided by the Wilson County Schools leadership team.
- The **school level or type** classifications include parents who have a child or children who currently attend that school and employees who work at that location. This information was provided by the Wilson County Schools leadership team.

Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7
Lakeview ES Mt. Juliet HS Mt. Juliet MS W.A. Wright ES	Lebanon HS Southside ES Tuckers Crossroads ES Watertown ES Watertown MS Watertown HS	Gladeville ES Rutland ES West Wilson MS Wilson Central HS Southside ES	Elzie Patton ES Mt. Juliet ES Mt. Juliet MS West Wilson MS Mt. Juliet HS Stoner Creek ES	Carroll-Oakland ES Lebanon HS Tuckers Crossroads ES	Lebanon HS Southside ES Wilson Central HS Stoner Creek ES West ES Mt. Juliet HS Elzie Patton ES	Carroll-Oakland ES Lebanon HS West ES Wilson Central HS Mt. Juliet HS Stoner Creek ES

Fall Break Preference

Keeping the fall break as 10 consecutive days received the highest overall ranking. That finding was consistent with the disaggregated findings by participant type, zones, and by school level or type.

Response	Overall Rank	Parent and Guardians	Employees	Parents and Employees	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Elementary	Middle	High	K-8	Non-Traditional Schools	Central Office
Keep the fall break as 10 consecutive days	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)
Have five days of fall break in October and 5 days the week of Thanksgiving	2 (86)	2 (91)	2 (71)	2 (66)	2 (84)	2 (84)	2 (88)	2 (84)	2 (84)	2 (83)	2 (83)	2 (90)	2 (80)	2 (79)	2 (84)	2 (92)	2 (91)
Shorten the fall break from 10 days to four days	3 (12)	3 (15)	3 (4)	3 (4)	3 (13)	3 (12)	3 (14)	3 (12)	3 (11)	3 (11)	3 (11)	3 (15)	3 (12)	3 (10)	3 (12)	3 (7)	3 (7)
Remove fall break	4 (7)	4 (8)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (8)	4 (7)	4 (7)	4 (6)	4 (6)	4 (6)	4 (6)	4 (8)	4 (6)	4 (6)	4 (6)	4 (5)	4 (4)

Thanksgiving Break Preference

Overall, participants ranked having Thanksgiving break as 5 days (including 3 school days) as their first choice. That finding was consistent with disaggregated findings by participant type, zones, and by school level or type.

Response	Overall Rank	Parents and Guardians	Employees	Parents and Employees	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Elementary	Middle	High	K-8	Non-Traditional Schools	Central Office
Thanksgiving break would be 5 days overall, including 3 school days	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)
Thanksgiving break would be 9 days overall, including 5 school days	2 (75)	2 (76)	2 (74)	2 (69)	2 (72)	2 (76)	2 (74)	2 (73)	2 (79)	2 (74)	2 (74)	2 (75)	2 (72)	2 (73)	2 (78)	2 (76)	2 (80)

Winter Break Preference

Participants ranked keeping the winter break as 10 days as their first choice. That finding was consistent with disaggregated findings by participant type, zones, and by school level or type.

Response	Overall Rank	Parents and Guardians	Employees	Parents and Employees	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Elementary	Middle	High	K-8	Non-Traditional Schools	Central Office
Keep the winter break as 10 days	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)
Shorten winter break to 7 days	2 (57)	2 (59)	2 (52)	2 (52)	2 (57)	2 (57)	2 (58)	2 (58)	2 (57)	2 (57)	2 (57)	2 (58)	2 (58)	2 (56)	2 (56)	2 (55)	2 (54)

Future Calendars

Findings disaggregated by participant type (parent/guardian, employee, and parent/guardian and employee) were the same as the overall findings. Findings were consistent after disaggregating results by participant type, zones, and by school level or type, **with the exception of the central office, whose participants preferred Option 1 as their first choice.**

Participants were torn between Options 1 and 2 based on the narrow difference in the weighted scores for the two choices.

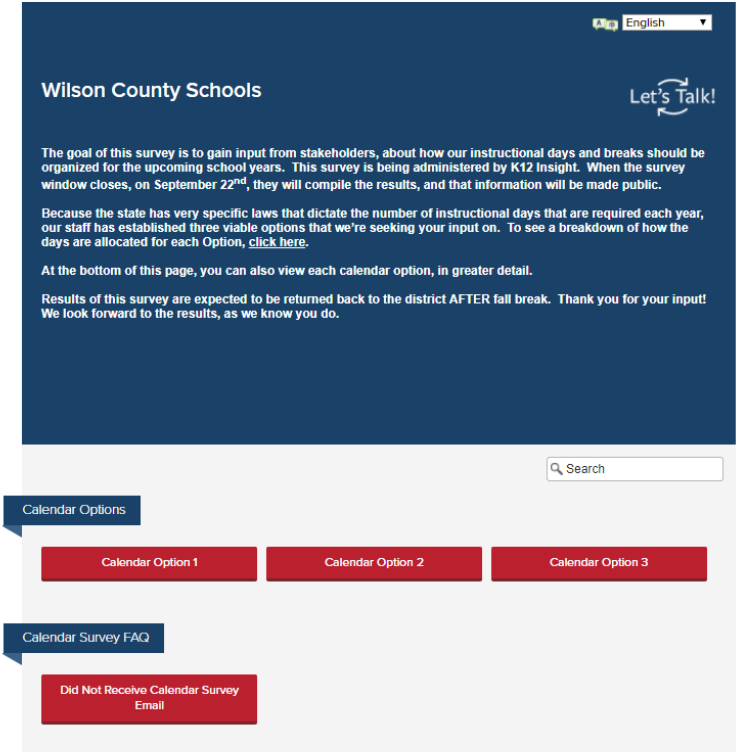
Response	Overall Rank	Parents	Employees	Parents and Employees	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Elementary	Middle	High	K-8	Non-Traditional Schools	Central Office
Option 2	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)	2 (98)
Option 1	2 (93)	2 (99)	2 (78)	2 (72)	2 (90)	2 (93)	2 (95)	2 (91)	2 (93)	2 (92)	2 (91)	2 (97)	2 (86)	2 (87)	2 (88)	2 (87)	1 (100)
Option 3	3 (19)	3 (22)	3 (9)	3 (11)	3 (19)	3 (22)	3 (19)	3 (17)	3 (19)	3 (18)	3 (17)	3 (21)	3 (17)	3 (16)	3 (19)	3 (25)	3 (12)

Appendix

Incorporation of Feedback From Let's Talk!

Throughout the survey window, participants could provide additional information about the Calendar Survey through the district's Let's Talk! page; 717 dialogues were received from stakeholders. The chart below showcases the metrics from Let's Talk!.

Interest Area Topic	Number of Dialogues Received	Age (Number of Days for Central Office to Close Out Dialogue)	Feedback Score (Scale of 1—10)
Calendar Option 1	198	0.2	8.9
Calendar Option 2	260	0.2	9.0
Calendar Option 3	126	0.2	8.9
Did Not Receive Calendar Survey Email	133	1.7	8.9



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