

Stoneham Public Schools

School Committee Meeting
Community PD Survey Results
January 25, 2024

Purpose of Survey

In March of 2023, a survey went out to our parent/guardian community explaining our need for additional professional learning time. At that time we requested input regarding the preferred day of the week. Based upon the responses from the community and staff, six early release days were added. These six days occur on Fridays spaced throughout the year.

This year Stoneham Schools implemented the additional six early release days for students to accommodate our need for more professional learning time for our staff.

Recently we have received mixed feedback regarding the number of days and the choice of Fridays. At this time we would like to revisit the number of days and which day of the week works best for our community and staff.

Data

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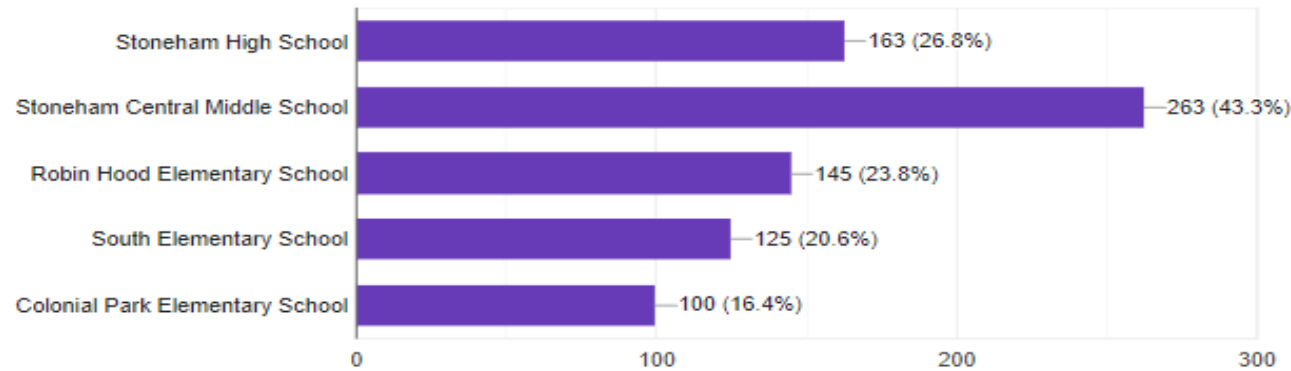
- **On January 17, 2024, the survey was sent to all PreK-22 parents/guardians and staff.**
- **We received 608 community responses and 177 staff responses.**
- **This represents a 26% community response rate and a 32% response rate from staff.**

Response Rate by School

Which school does your child attend? If you have multiple children, please choose each school.

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608 responses

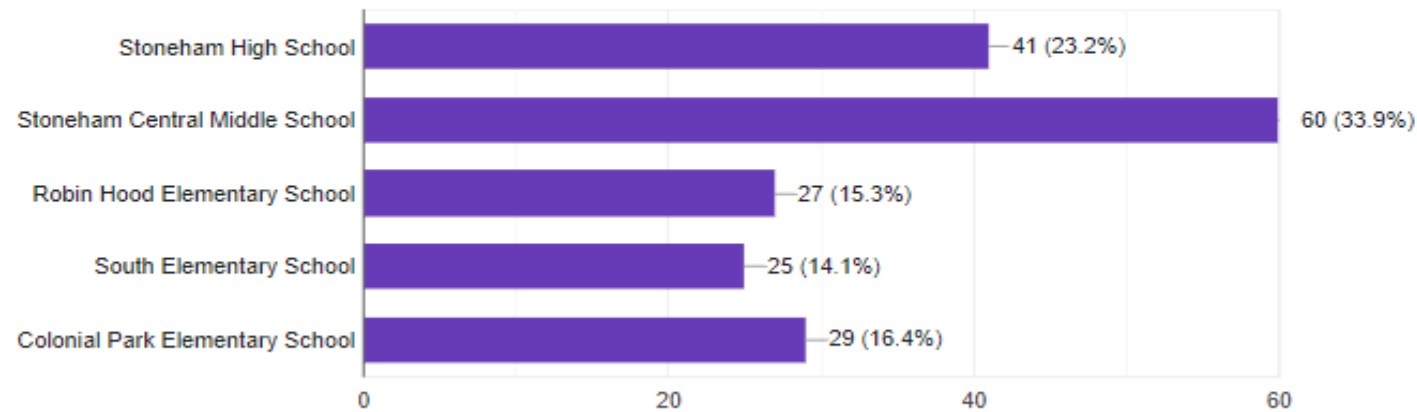


Community Response

At which school do you work? If you work at multiple buildings, please choose each school.

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177 responses

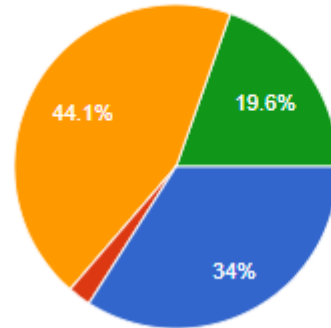


Staff Response

Should we reduce the number of early release days?

Community Response

608 responses

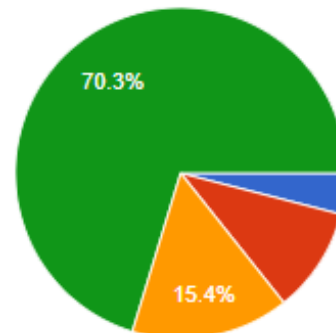


- These days worked for our family, please keep them on the calendar for the 2024-2025 school year.
- These days did not work for our family please remove them from the calendar for 2024-2025 school year.
- Either way works for our family.
- Please reduce the number of days (see next question).

Staff Response

If you think that six early release days are too many, what number would you prefer?

175 responses



- Five
- Four
- Three
- Leave as is.

Which day of the week works best for your family/schedule?

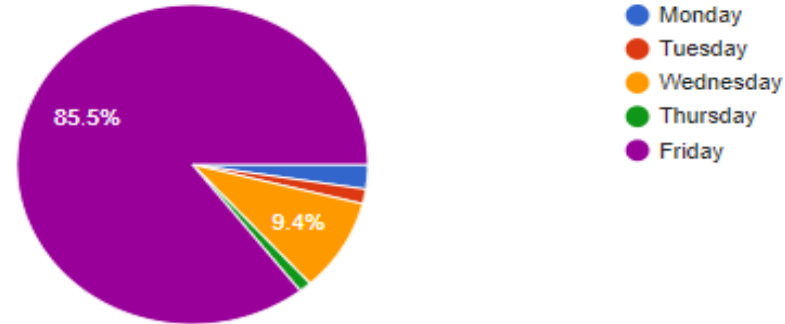
Which day of the week do you prefer that Professional Development (half days) occur?

608 responses

Community Response

March 2023

77.3% preferred Fridays.



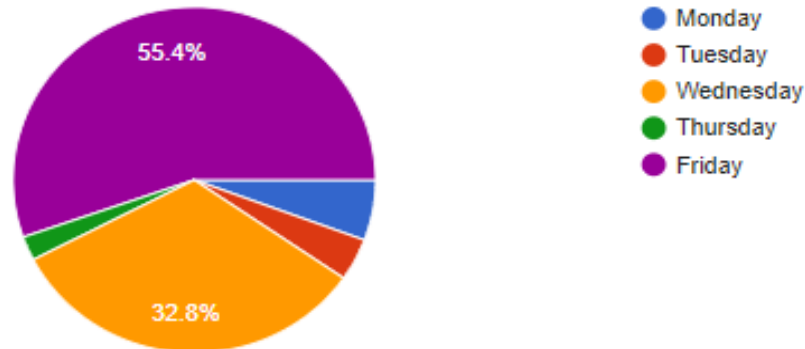
Which day of the week do you prefer that Professional Development (half days) occur?

177 responses

Staff Response

March 2023

52.6% preferred Fridays.

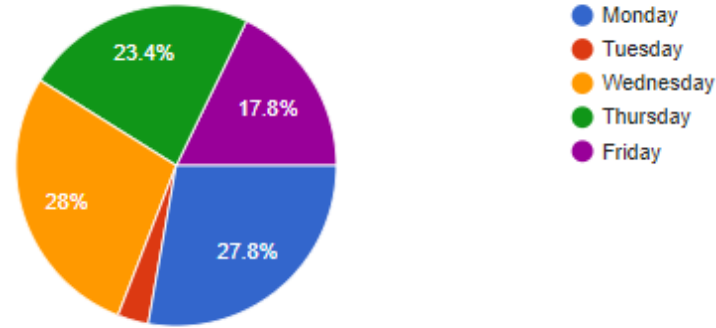


Second Preferred Day of the Week

What would your second preference be for a day for Professional Development (half day) to occur?

608 responses

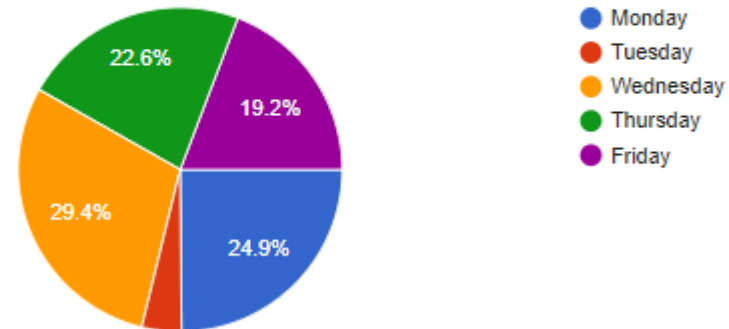
Community Response



What would your second preference be for a day for Professional Development (half day) to occur?

177 responses

Staff Response



Additional Comments - Community

- Perhaps 3 whole days off on Fridays would be better? Easier to get a Friday off and travel as a family on Fridays. (It would reduce the unexcused absences for us:)
- The staff PD schedule can be accomplished after school hours. Keep the kids in school and teach.
- I would much rather the kids go in late than be released early.
- Try to avoid months that tend to have multiple other holidays/breaks/snow days, such as November, Dec, Jan etc.
- Consistency year to year will be helpful in planning for child care and pickups
- It would be helpful if additional childcare/aftercare options were available for families who do not regularly send their children to aftercare.
- Do it during teacher time or find substitutes to cover the time teachers need so kids can stay in school
- Please do what is best for the teachers and the students.
- How about scheduling these trainings before school starts or pay the teachers OT from 2:30-4:30 6 days a year.

Additional Comments - Staff

- Full days would be much better. Half days after working all morning are a challenge. If we could have full day PDs they would be much more effective!
- I do not think that the pd days should all be on the same day...this creates many challenges, especially for missed specials and planning time.
- Would you consider starting the day with PD and having the students come afterward?
- Professional development should be on a day of the week that it allow teachers immediately implement in the following days.
- I think it is working the way it is.

Summary of PD Survey

- **The majority of families can make this schedule work for them.**
 - **After school childcare is needed on these days for students who do not usually utilize the Boys and Girls Club Program**
 - **There is some concern for lost academic time from both staff and community**
 - **Many people suggested that we add full days versus half days.**
 - **Others suggested that after school hours with pay for staff would work best.**
 - **A consistent day of the week would be best for some, others would like the days to be varied.**