



2025-2026 TCSD1 Calendar -Summary

You are invited to provide suggestions and feedback via a [online form](#) at the conclusion of the information session

Why?

TCSD has heard loud and clear from our staff that more collaborative and planning time is needed to serve our students. With any change recommendation that impacts the students and families of TCSD1, it is important to acknowledge potential fears and concerns. TCSD acknowledges some parents have voiced concerns regarding the potential reduction of “seat time” learning hours. This proposal targets a focus on better use of time, versus just the amount of time. By providing consistent staff collaboration and planning time, the effectiveness of precise and targeted instructional time with students increases. This leads to a better educational experience for all students. In addition, the following proposals potentially allow K-5 enrichment programming (such as learn to swim or winter sports) that occurs during the normal instructional day to shift to non-instructional time, thus preserving more teaching time during the normal school day.

The profession of teaching has changed over time, from teaching in isolation, to a collective-team responsibility for student achievement. Essentially, teaching has become a team sport versus a collection of free agents. Team collaboration includes working with specialized staff members in areas such as gifted and talented, special education, school counseling, and English language development. Whether a student is struggling with reading or achieving at high levels, these specialists not only enrich the students' experiences, they are also an important member of the collaborative team. Currently, with the varying schedules, it is not possible for these teams to work together.

The teaching profession needs time to recalibrate, redesign, and practice together to fully support your child. Staff are working hard to make the cultural shift to believe that each student's success is a collective, team responsibility or “we” versus one teacher's responsibility or “I.”

TCSD Acknowledges:

- Potential change in relationship to traditional instructional hours....resulting in a focus on better use of time, versus just time.
- Fears and uncertainty around the specifics of the district's proposals (times, days, program options) and the resulting impact on the daily routine for families.
- Historical TCSD1 proposals (Wednesday early release); understanding that no proposal is perfect.
- The need for continued feedback from parents and staff in our community.

Specific Goals

- Provide much needed critical time for staff collaboration across grade levels and buildings in order to more positively impact student learning and outcomes.
- With more staff collaboration time, assist with increasing teaching effectiveness in the classroom making the most of the instructional hours we have with students.
- Positively impact teacher recruitment, retention and minimize staff absences.
- Continue to meet and exceed WY state required days and hours of instruction (state statute).
- Across K-12, consistent school calendar and release times for all schools.

Developing consistent team collaboration time for our staff is essential for TCSD and student learning. The question is how.....We are asking you to review the proposals below. Proposal #1 is the original proposal but we want to evaluate options that may work better for families. Based on parent feedback, we have provided additional proposals #2 and #3. It is important to note that a consistent program proposal is critical. For example, the proposals below need to be predictable, every week, every month with consistent times for planning and transportation purposes.

Quick Summary of Proposals for 25-26 School Year

NOTE: Other Proposals may be considered. Below represent some of the feedback provided by staff and parents.

	Proposal 1 -Modified Fridays		Proposal 2 -Delayed Start Mondays		Proposal 3 -No Modified Days (typical calendar, add teacher inservice day 1X per month, min)
General description	On Fridays, consistent weekly release time for grades K-5, 12:30pm/1pm and grades 6-12, 1:30pm. Optional educational and recreational programming for K5 students from 1-3:30pm/4pm.		On Mondays, consistent weekly delayed start time for grades K-5, 10:00am and grades 6-12, 11:00am. *No optional K-5 programming.		<u>No change</u> in start and stop times of the school day. Similar to the 2024-2025 school year. However, school days for students and staff would start before labor day, approx Aug 25 and end the third week of June (2026)
Meets WY statute Days/hours of instruction	yes		yes		yes
Student Days	175 to 179(<u>+4 days</u>)		175 to 179 (<u>+4 days</u>)		175
Hours of instruction	TCSD -Grades K-5 = 978 hours (reduction of 57 hours compared to 24-25) -Grades 6-8 = 987 (reduction of 38 hours from 24-25 school year) -Grades 9-12 = 1112 approx (range +100/-100 with additional programming)	State of WY (req) -K = 450 hours -Grades 1-5 = 900 hours -Grades 6-8 = 950 hours -Grades 9-12 = 1000 hours	TCSD -Grades K-5 = 978 hours (reduction of 57 hours compared to 2024-2025) -Grades 6-8 = 987 (reduction of 38 hours from 24-25 school year) -Grades 9-12 = 1112 approx (range +100/-100 with additional programming)	State of WY (req) -K = 450 hours -Grades 1-5 = 900 hours -Grades 6-8 = 950 hours -Grades 9-12 = 1000 hours	TCSD (Same as 2024-2025 school year) K-5 = 1035 6-8 = 1025 9-12=1011

	Note: -K-5 students are released from school 2 hours and 15 min early -6-12 students are released 2 hours and 30 minutes early		Note: -K-5 students start the school day approximately 2 hours and 15 late. -6-12 students start the day released 2 hours and 45 minutes late		
Day a a glance	See below		See below		See below
Meals provided	yes		yes		no
Optional programming for K5 students	Yes Easy sign up, lessen this stress		no		no
Optional K-5 programming fee paid by parent/\$\$	no		NA (no optional programming)		NA (no optional programming)
Transportation -normal routes to and from schools	yes		yes		yes
Transportation to K5 optional programming (parent pickup)	yes		NA		NA
Staff work normal full contract day	yes		yes		yes

Day at a Glance *All times are approximate*

Proposal 1: Modified <u>Fridays</u>	K-5	6-8	9-12
Start of Day (students)	8	8/9	8/9
End of Day (students)	12:30/1 (1-3:30/4 optional K-5 programming)	1/1:30	1/1:30
End of Day (staff)	4	4	4

Proposal 2: Delayed Start <u>Mondays</u>	K-5	6-8	9-12
Start of Day (students)	10	11	11
End of Day (students)	3	4	4
End of Day (staff)	4	4	4

Proposal 3: <u>No</u> Modified Student Days (Increase number of teacher inservice days during school year)	K-5	6-8	9-12
Instructional Time (students and staff)	8-3	9-4	9-4
End of Day (students)	3	4	4
End of Day (staff)	4	4	4

Let's hear from a couple staff

Dan Abraham, Principal at MMES

Brian Olivares, Teacher at JHMS

Process of Exploration

- Board of Trustees request - look at other school districts, what are they doing? - Oct 9
- Board of Trustees request - get input from various groups, Nov 13
- Admin Calendar Team - Oct 29 + Nov 19
- Staff, TCSD Leadership program participants, Nov 12
- SAC, Superintendent Advisory Committee [Feedback](#), Nov 18
- Transportation considerations - throughout Nov +Dec
- ES Committee (board) - initial review of proposal, Nov 21
- Community partner K5 programming meetings - look at possibilities
- TCEA feedback, December
- Parent Focus Group + FAC [summary](#), Dec 4
- All schools, principal led staff meetings
- TCSD staff survey, Dec
- Parents/Community wide Zoom info session Dec 14
- Parent survey feedback Dec - Jan
- Cabinet - Ongoing
- Staff, TCSD Leadership
- SAC, Dec 16
- Full Board of Trustees, Dec 11 + January
- Meet with Systems of ED, Dec 20
- Tentative TBD - Jan 6 info session?
- Meeting with Teton Literacy Center parent group - January 14

Misc Information

- Current [Friday Attendance data](#) for K-5, 6-8 grades
- [Example of staff collaboration work](#) that would take place during modified days.
- Historically, a modified school day has been proposed in TCSD1. Two years ago, a proposal was brought forward for early release Wednesdays in order to provide staff team and professional collaboration time. The Wednesday proposal was problematic given the mid week inconsistent release time from schools coupled with no programming options provided for K-5 students/parents.
- For **Option #1 Only**
 - Optional K5 Student programming between 1-3:30/4pm
 - Programming will align to TCSD mission and vision statements regarding preparing students for an ever changing world--programming will target learning skills associated with: Problem solving, creativity, teamwork, leadership, and communication.

- K-5/9-12 intergenerational learning opportunities: High school seniors work directly with K-5 students. Develop a mentor / mentee program (grade 11/12 students to K5 students). Grade 11/12 students interested in the education profession (grown your own program/aspiring educators) work with K5 students.
- Partner with community organizations (examples may include: Teton Science School, Parks and Rec, JH Ski Club, Snow King)
- Shift some existing recreational educational programs that occur at K5 level to Friday afternoons to preserve instructional time

Example purpose only (for Option #1 only)

Supported by TCSD 1-3/4pm				Additional 1:30 -3/4pm (private)			
TSS / Americorps and Mountain Academy "Place Based"	Parks and Rec programming	TCSD Intergenerational learning (high school/elem student connections)	CWC (early childhood education students work with K5)	Ski Club	Hockey	Soccer	Others TBD

Research

- Peer Reviewed Research:
 - [Teacher Collaboration Time](#)
 - [Finding the Time to Collaborate](#)

Other resources

- [Elevated Achievement Group](#). Case studies of positive impacts of teacher collaboration and effective use of time.
- [Learning Policy Institute](#). The case studies used interviews, observations, and document reviews to examine and describe how the schools reorganized teacher and student time within the school day; What students and teachers did within the re-organized time; the interaction between the re-organized use of teacher and student time; and the enabling conditions for using the re-organized time well.
- [US Department of Education](#). This research has shown that schools in which teacher collaboration is encouraged tend to have higher student achievement than less collaborative schools. These studies typically use standardized test scores to measure achievement. They assess how collaborative schools are in various ways.
- [Effective Teacher Professional Development](#): This 2017 report from the Learning Policy Institute describes the need for teachers to engage in more sophisticated teaching strategies if we are to help students develop the complex skills necessary for success. The report outlines 7 elements necessary for professional learning to be effective - A focus on teaching strategies aligned to teachers' contexts, use of active learning, collaboration, modeling effective practice, providing coaching, incorporating feedback and reflection, and being of a sustained duration.
- [What makes a high-quality professional development program?](#) This 2021 article provides a brief summary of research around what is necessary for professional learning to be of high quality. They describe the elements of having a clear vision, being based on identified needs, being comprehensive with multiple tiers, collaboration, breaking down silos, and providing sufficient time. The authors also emphasize the need to pay attention to teacher learning if we want to see positive impacts on student learning.

Comparison Detail of 2024-2025 & 2025-2026 school year (instructional days/hours)

Instructional Hours Comparison (approximate)			
	2024-2025	2025-2026 Proposal #1 Modified Fridays & Proposal #2 Delayed Start Mondays	State Requirement(s)
K-5	<u>175 days</u> , 8-3	<u>179 Days</u> ,	K (450 hours), Grades 1-5, 900 hours, 175 days
	~1035 Hours	~978 hours	
6-12	<u>175 days</u> , 9-4, 8 Flex Fridays @ JHHS, 4 Flex Fridays at JHMS)	<u>179 days</u> ,	6-8, 175 days, 950 hours 9-12, 175 days, 1000 hours
	~1011 Hours JHHS, ~1025 Hours JHMS	Range from 1010 hours to 1112 Hours JHHS 987 Hours JHMS	

Closing

- 1. TCSD1 Board of Trustees and TCSD staff will continue to discuss options
- 2. We need your feedback - [Lets review - survey](#)