

Early Release Wednesday

Engagement and feedback

Since the school board's adoption of the 2015-16 school year calendar on June 23, the administration has implemented an engagement plan that has included:

- Information on the Tukwila School District homepage, including highlights translated in Burmese, Nepali, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- Three School Messengers (a general announcement, a reminder about the community meetings, and version in Burmese, Nepali, Somali, and Spanish).
- Two community meetings with Dr. Coogan.
- An information session at the Summer School Family Night (with surveys) and flyers sent home with summer school students.
- Calendars/flyers available to all visitors at the Administration Building.
- Calendars/flyers delivered and displayed across the city: Tukwila Community Center [sent home with students in summer programs], City Hall, KCLS Foster Library, and major apartment buildings (Samara I and II, mobile-home park ...).
- Two eNews notifications (an announcement and reminder about the survey and community meeting with a link to the online information).
- Email notification to all staff.
- Notifications in the Tukwila Reporter (notice on the homepage of the online edition; article in the July printed edition).
- Notifications on the Foster High reader board.
- Notifications on social media with a link to the online information: Facebook, Twitter, Tukwila Talks, NextDoor...

Feedback

Phone calls

- No phone calls to the main office or superintendent's office to offer feedback.

Surveys

- Summer School Family Night surveys: 21 parents/guardians returned surveys after the calendar presentation. Of those, 17 only saw positive benefits or "wished this had happened earlier." The other four had questions about childcare but also saw positive benefits to the switch. SEE ATTACHED SUMMARY.
- Survey Monkey surveys: 55 respondents so far. Major themes: Many feel the switch is great; many want to change impacted days to Fridays; several want answers about what will happen with after-school programs and sports; several need options for childcare. SEE ATTACHED SUMMARY.

Community meetings

- Four families attended the community meeting with Dr. Coogan on July 8. In general, they all wanted more information about the calendar and were not opposed to the switch. One family asked that we provide activities for students who have a gap between the end of school and start of athletics/activities.

Social media

- There was one comment to all the social-media posts. This was the pool offering its \$2 swim sessions every Early Release Wednesday, which received positive feedback. One parent asked us to consider switching Early Release days to Fridays or Mondays next year.

Surveys from Summer School Family Night (June 25, 2015)

Surveys collected:	21
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Students at:

Foster	Showalter	Cascade View	Thorndyke	TukEl
2	4	3	11	3

Which of these do you consider benefits to your family?

(Number of parents who picked the attribute/the attribute selected)

6	Higher quality professional development for teachers with increased classroom learning
5	Consistency in schools' start times each day of the week
2	Reducing the number of impacted Wednesdays in the school year by almost half
2	Ability of older siblings to watch younger siblings when school is out
5	Fewer times when teachers have to be out of their regular class to attend trainings.

Open ended: What challenges does your family face from the switch to Early Release Wednesdays?

(Number of parents with the same response/the response)

17	None/Wish this had happened earlier
1	Not knowing if the daycare will provide transportation on early-release days (Thorndyke)
1	Wife works during the day; he is looking for a job. Will be difficult to pick their daughter up at noon, but they will make it work for the benefit of the school. Thank you for looking for a way to improve our school better and better. (Thorndyke)
1	Both parents are working so nobody can pick up the kids from elementary school. Like the late-start option better. (Cascade View)
1	After-school childcare for our first-grader (Tukwila)

Survey Monkey responses

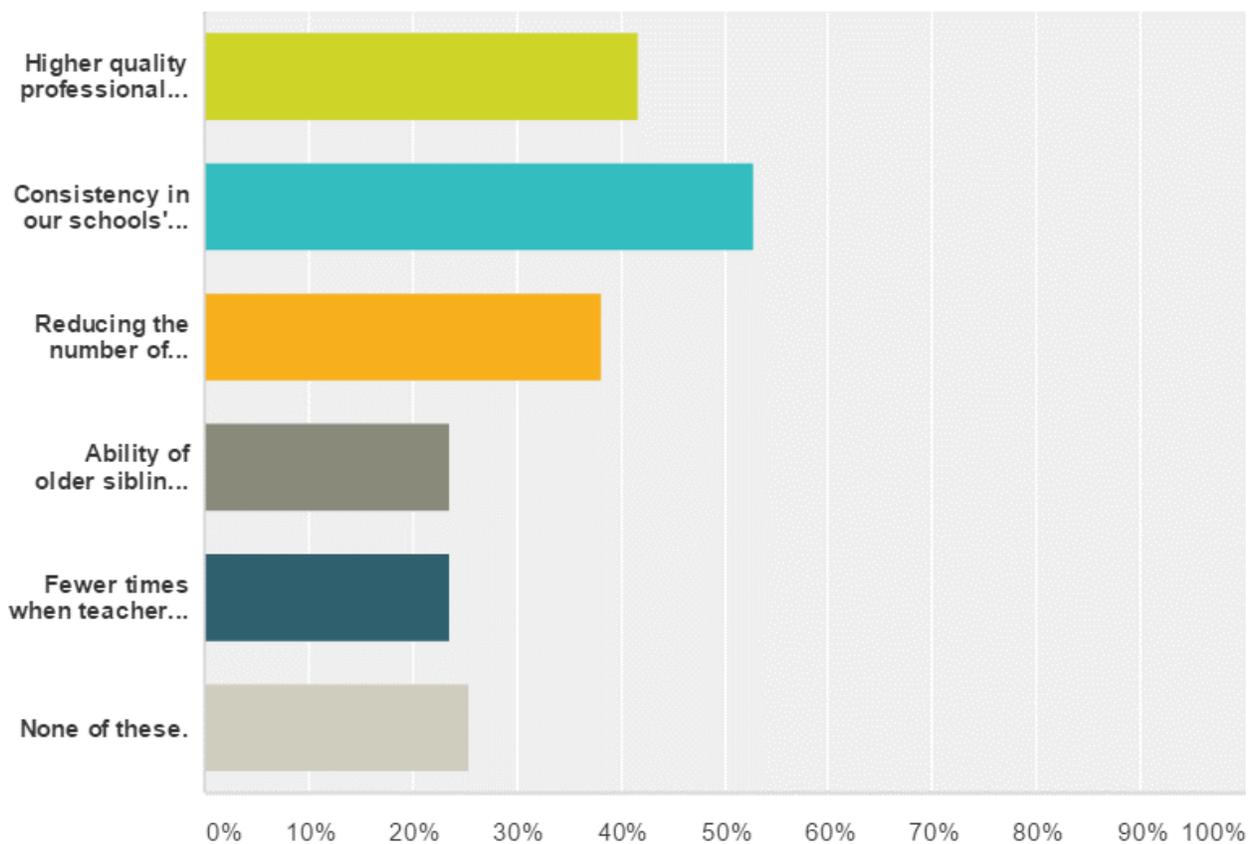
(June 24 to July 10, 2015; the survey will remain open through July)

Total responses: 55 families representing

- 23 Foster students
- 20 Showalter students
- 9 Cascade View students
- 6 Thorndyke students
- 16 Tukwila Elementary students

For your family, which of these are benefits to switching to Early Release Wednesdays?

Answered: 55 Skipped: 0

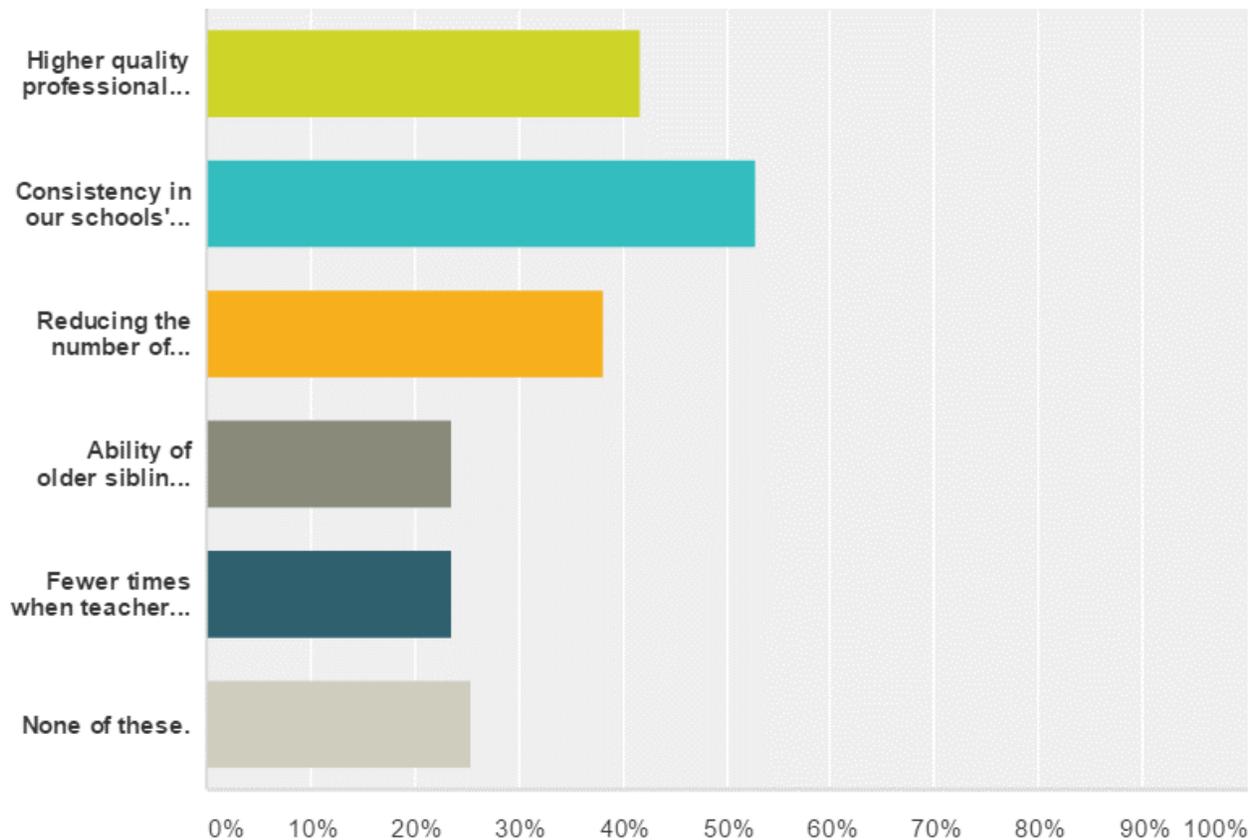


Comments (compilation of all themes):

- So much easier to arrange childcare!!
- I personally think it should be a vote from what the teachers want.
- Wednesdays are a bad day for early release. Much prefer Fridays. (x2)
- Consistency of start time helps us plan our mornings better.

For your family, which of these are benefits to switching to Early Release Wednesdays?

Answered: 55 Skipped: 0



Comments (compilation of all themes):

- This will create more unattended time for secondary students and opportunity for them to get into “more trouble in an unforgiving society.”
- Please make early release on Fridays! (x2)
- Hoping that TCC and after-school programs will be available on these days.
- HS, MS, and elementary have different release times.
- It will affect daycare because the kids will be coming home at nap time, which will wake the little ones.
- High school PSSC students are registered in the AM. They will not be able to attend any FHS classes on these days, missing instruction.
- All of these are problems.
- It’s a lot easier to obtain appointments in the morning if you’re a working parent so that way you don’t have to go to work, go get your kid, get to the appointment, and return to work.
- Parents work until regular school time is out so there will be no one to pick up the children.

What else should we know (open ended):

- Prefer Fridays—please switch! (x6)

- As a parent I am VERY happy with this. I hope it cuts down the number of teachers missing work for PD, as I don't like my daughter having so many subs.
- Teachers should have the final say.
- It's WAY better!!!
- It is soooooo much better. I had difficulty remembering when it was a late start and often drove to school needlessly on Wednesdays. I would then bring my son back home and leave for work. He would sometimes fall back asleep and then be late for school. Kids of this age need someone to make sure they are up and moving on time. Early release makes much more sense.
- This is a major inconvenience.
- Good!
- I think switching to early release instead of late starts is a great idea. There are multiple benefits as a result. For our family, it works much better with our schedules.
- Appreciate the consistency in start times.
- This messes up the family schedule if not consistent school time and hours.
- This is great. THANK YOU for the switch.
- This is a huge impact on my family. Are you sure that teachers will be attentive during the afternoon training?
- It's perfect.
- The consistency of the starting time every day will be good.
- As a small district, why aren't we looking at changing the high school start time to a later time EVERY day? There are many pieces of research that indicate that high school students perform better if they sleep in.
- There will be insufficient childcare coverage for my children that attend elementary school. The current plan for my family is to use the Tukwila Community Center for before and after school care. They offer "SMART" Wednesday (late-start) coverage, but so far nothing for this new early release option. If there is some plan worked out with TCC, then that might be an easy solution for families.
- It should just stay the same.
- Foster library a lot of times has things to do on Wednesday for the kids after school, so now your implementing early release and then the programs aren't going to start for another 3-4 hours, are they also going to accommodate ? What about school sports practices how are those going to work? Parents could pick their kids up after work, now they won't be able to and will have to leave early to do so. Also is the afterschool program going to be accommodating this as well? What will the kids who go to after school program do? It seems like those in charge of deciding what days and how early or late it will start or end, don't have kids or jobs and that they are not empathetic/ sympathetic. Here you are making the change but now you want to know how it will impact families and children when perhaps it should have been based on an overall vote of families, the ones who this will be more of an issue for.