

## 2010-11 V-S CSD Calendar Survey Data – External Representation

**365 Responses**

(Survey Open: Dates 1/8/10 – 1/17/10)

1. What stakeholder group do you represent?
  - V-S CSD Parent: **201 or 55%**
  - V-S CSD Student: **149 or 41%**
  - V-S CSD Community Member (not a parent of a current student): **10 or 3%**
  - Other: **5 or 1%**
  
2. What is your preference for a start/end date for 2010-11?
  - Early Start/Early End (approx. start: 8/16/10, approx. end: 5/9/11): **106 or 29%**
  - Mid-Start/Mid-End (approx. start: 8/23/10, approx. end: 5/16/11): **152 or 42%**
  - Late Start/Late End (approx. start: late August, approx. end: late May): **107 or 29%**
  
3. Should we have Spring Break?
  - YES: **241 or 66%**
  - NO: **124 or 34%**
  
4. If you indicated "YES" for a Spring Break, what is your preferred break timeframe?
  - One week in March: **102 or 40%**
  - Extended break built around Easter: **154 or 60%**
  
5. Should November 24th (day before Thanksgiving) be a no-school day?
  - YES: **259 or 71%**
  - NO: **106 or 29%**
  
6. Should December 23rd be used as a "snow make-up day"?
  - YES: **203 or 56%**
  - NO: **162 or 44%**
  
7. Do you prefer "early-out" or "late-start" schedule for teacher staff development?
  - Early Out (2 hours): **259 or 71%**
  - Late Start (2 hours): **106 or 29%**

### Comments:

- IF spring break continues to be built into the calendar, wouldn't it be possible to make at least a couple of those days snow make-up days? Is it really necessary for the district to have another whole week off from school two months after returning from Christmas break, and two months from the end of the school year?? Why not make a four-day weekend out of Easter break (off on Friday and Monday) and call it good? The rest of the working community doesn't get that much time off from work...just a thought from a frustrated parent.
- I feel that if there are snow days - it should be taken from the Spring break. If parents have plans to travel - the kids could make it up ahead of time.

- For question #2, I wouldn't select any of them. How about a medium start of 23 Aug and a late (normal) ending of late May. This gives us room for a spring break and weather days. I would not make 23 Dec a possible snow day. People will have to then do Christmas travel on Christmas eve. Not good, even if the weather is OK. Terrible if it snows as you would either leave early or travel Christmas Day.
- There are too many interruptions in the routines of our children's school schedules due to weather, in service, days off, holidays, etc. More days are needed without interruptions to keep continuity, hard to avoid when cancellations hit. Teachers, students, staff have all summer to rest, take continuing ed., etc...Thank you!
- If there is a concern about snow - have school for those who can get there. Build in more early outs and allow for possible snow days.
- If the district is going to have a spring break, I would prefer it is actually in the spring, like late March and NOT the first week in March.
- Really wish you would do away with Spring break. Good Friday and possibly the Monday after Easter make a nice "spring break". If families want a different spring break their children can make up work ahead of time and go when they please. Teachers can use their vacation/personal days for a vacation break. Most of us leave our older children home/younger children with sitters while we work away on the so called "Spring break". That change gives the calendar 4-5 flexible snow days.
- I think that the school schedule should start early September and end early June.
- I want school the day before Thanksgiving but it would be nice to have an early out that day.
- SCHOOL ALL YEAR ROUND!!!!!!!!!!!! : ) Go into summer and have a longer break in the winter
- instead of a no school on the day before Thanksgiving we could have an early out
- I really dont care
- GO VIKINGS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Is it possible to shorten the school day at VSHS?
- i think that we should have more to eat at lunch time they don't feed you enough food and they shouldn't charge your 50 cents for a cookie that wont even fill you up.
- alternate the late start/early out would be better
- we should have pie for lunch some days
- You should think about year round school.
- I think we should have more snow make up days in the school year so we don't have to go in June
- As far as early outs/late starts -- whatever works best for professional development purposes and scheduling. Two or three days (i.e. Thurs, Fri, Mon) around Easter is plenty for a "Spring Break." A week long March break has been popular with some school district staff as well as families with the means to take a week long vacation. However, a large number of families in the Vinton-Shellsburg district (many who do not reply to surveys) do not want this long of a spring break especially in March when their kids are unable to get outside and move around. Many are cooped up inside because the vast majority of parents are working during Vinton's current week long spring break in March. As a teacher, I have also found March to be a prime time for learning because there are not as many snow disruptions and spring fever has not quite set in yet. Is it also possible to start a discussion about moving graduation off of Memorial Day weekend or as a compromise having the ceremony on Saturday to leave the rest of the weekend and Monday available for a holiday? A separate thought for scheduling purposes--Please, please reconsider the start time for the high school. I know high school scheduling issues, busing issues and safety concerns at Tilford Elementary come into play, but I truly believe it would be better if students at the high school could start later (8:30?) and get out later (3:30?--after all the other traffic has cleared from the other buildings). Early morning activities (that must now start even earlier--6:45 am or before!) really take a toll on students and their school day. Thanks for your time.
- We understand there is no way to please everyone on a calender(I'm glad I do not have to be on this com.) We should all understand that we live in Iowa and the calender will change. Just wanted to let you know what a neat idea to let us all voice our opinion. Good luck!
- Thank you for allowing me to have input.
- If there is a Spring break built into the school year. Word it that days will be used to make up snow days. Not just one but 3 or 4 days. We never use to have Spring Break and don't know when they started having it. Plus have 2 or 3 during the year into. Just look at the last 3 -4 years with all the snow days. It is not going to hurt the kids not having a Spring break. If parents are going to do a trip they will take it whenever. I know people that are gone now and here we are the week of the January 11 -15. Did they

wait for a Spring Break??? NO THEY DIDN'T could they have went during x-mas break yes!!! DO away with Spring break!!!

- Thanks for the option of this public survey.
- I know that it can't be done next year, but I'm in favor of a year-round school calendar.
- Because of the hectic year with sporting activities running back-to-back or overlapping we enjoy the Spring Break. It's nice for families to be able to get away and spend time together. (We would not like it to coincide with Easter since we already have extended family get togethers at that time.)  
Is the "early out" or "late start" schedule on a consistent basis or once in a while?
- we should have early outs 4 times a month. those are the best and that might make more people want to come. we should all be able to go outside for lunch.
- I think this is a positive way to get feedback from the community regarding our school schedule! Thank you for asking our opinion! An option that was used in another district my children attended is to get out early on Wednesdays (at 1:00) to do staff development. Just another option.
- How about if we had graduation on an evening not always on Memorial Sunday, We could have it the Friday night or Saturday afternoon.  
We could have a few days off for spring break but we don't need a full week, Give us 1 or 2 days before a week end and or 1 or 2 days after a week end so we could make it a long week end not a full week  
Thanks for asking
- we should be able to use our cell phone during lunch time, advisor and between class on regular days of school
- We should get subway instead of having pizza hut for lunch...just a suggestion
- The school year should not start prior to the end of the Iowa State Fair, which runs from August 12 - 22 2010. We are a rural school district with students that participate in 4H and FFA. These students should not have to choose between showing at the State Fair and going to school.
- Most importantly we would like to see school start later in the Summer. In many states school starts after Labor Day the unofficial end of summer. Thank you for checking our input! It is very much appreciated.
- I know you won't please everyone. Do the best you can : ) Thanks for all your hard work on this!!
- I think Vinton-Shellsburg should go year round with occasional breaks so that snow days and holiday breaks aren't such a big deal to schedule.
- For snow days, it seems the district cancels school in anticipation of a storm. Every year there are a couple snow days that the kids could have attended for most of the day (early out/late start) that would count.
- I have never seen a need for a full week off for spring break for grades K - 12. In fact, I am opposed to a full week off for spring break. Instead, I would prefer to see maybe 3 or 4 days built in to March and April as days off but be available as snow make-up days if necessary. Thank you for allowing us to submit our ideas and opinions on this!
- Early out the day before thanksgiving would be PERFECT
- built in break around Easter, but have ALL those days available to use as snow make up if needed...Same as if we DID have a week spring break....
- The district should consider instituting school uniforms. This would include tops- (polo or button down style) choice of 3 or 4 colors and pants (docked style/skirts)with choice of two colors. I think all would be amazed at change in behavior of children, better focus on studies, less peer pressure to compete w/ clothing/name brands and substantial savings to parents. Let's be a leader in the state by instituting this.
- I will GREATLY encourage the idea of year round school. The research I have seen shows that retention is greatly improved by the short breaks from school instead of a long summer break.
- I work for Rockwell Child Development Center in Cedar Rapids. We are managed by the Cedar Rapids school district. It can be hard at times for Vinton-Shellsburg to have days off etc that do not match up with Cedar Rapids. Most of my vacation time is used for these instances. I am already trying to figure out what to do with my child for the 1st/2nd week in June...Vinton gets out about 5 days before Cedar Rapids. I would NOT care for an early May ending date at all. Makes it hard to enroll them in summer camps and such for child care purposes when the school districts have such different ending dates.
- Thank you for asking our opinions! :)
- if the spring break schedule is going to still be in the beginning of March, then there shouldn't be a spring break. The kids basically do nothing while they are inside, the same as they did when they were on

Christmas break. The last several years it has been too cold to actually go out and do something, and sometimes too hazardous for families to travel anywhere.

- Instead of cancelling school when inclement weather is forecasted, let send them to school and dismiss early if necessary.

If we do have Spring Break, could we either extend the Easter break, or have it later in March. It is too cold the first week of March.

Thanks for excepting outside opinions :)

- I would have checked yes to the spring break question, although I do not like the fact that spring break has been the first week of March. I think the 3rd or 4th week is more appropriate. I also think it would be beneficial to students and teachers if snow make up day were made up during the trimester they were missed. Adding days at the end does not help students. These days are often putting in time days.
- It is easier to find childcare for my 2 children after school then to find transportation for them to get to school with a late start.
- Late start - I chose this because it is often very hot during August and many people take vacation during this month. Also, if we have a lot of days to make up due to snow, an early start would mean a very short summer. Having a Spring Break - I could go either way with this one - it did not say that if we did not have spring break school would end earlier or that we would use that time to make up snow days - which are both possibilities. Snow days - Let's have more snow make-up days built into the calendar. And one final thing - many school districts keep their calendars on the same schedule year after year - that way people know what to expect and how to plan. Thanks for having this survey!
- I think there should be more snow make up days in the school year instead of making it up at the end of the year. Schedule a spring break but use it as snow days if needed. A year or two ago was bad when we were going to school early and staying late because of the snow days but they still got a week off. Didn't make much sense.
- The late start schedule not only works better with HS student's sleep, it works better for those of us who have practices after school. On early out days we have an hour and a half in between school and practice. This also allows middle schoolers to still have their practices because usually they are cancelled on early out days.
- If Spring Break is included it should also be made snow make-up days, that way the students do not have to go so long in May and into June --- if there are snow days ---
- how about year round school.....if you give a spring break then use those days for snow make-up days if needed instead at the end of the year when it has a possibility of running into summer school and vacations
- how about year round school.....if you give a spring break then use those days for snow make-up days if needed instead at the end of the year when it has a possibility of running into summer school and vacations
- Thank you for letting us voice our opinion! I appreciate it.
- IF there is a Spring break snow days should be made up during some of those days
- I think the late start or early outs for the staff dev. should be decided by the teachers and principals.
- How about staff deleopement after school hours or weekends like other professinoals?
- All the early outs are difficult for working parents. Why can't staff development be grouped together into a full day off instead of so many early outs?
- Thank you for listening to our input!
- Would like to see these results published and rationale for your decisions based on this survey. Also - A calendar format calendar printed or on hte web sitie - not a sheet a paper with text - have local business advertise to pay for it. I have even seen Outlook calendars that will sync to other devices.
- It is helpful if the decision to delay/cancel school can be made by 6 AM. Some children are on the bus @6:45, so they would appreciate as much advance notice as possible. Realize this isn't always possible, but nice when it can happen. Thanks!
- I appreciate all that the teachers do but they have alot of teacher staff development days during the year. I understand that they have required training but they have summers off and can do extra training then since they are still on contract. I think that should be looked at as trying to get those required items shceduled differently.
- If we have a spring break I thing that it should be added as the last week of school so we can either get out early for summer or we can use that week as a snow make-up day.

- I feel that if there is a spring break I think that it should be used for snow make up days. I also think that graduation weekend should not be on holiday.
- Very pleased you asked for parent and community input!! I would like a printed activity calendar for the whole school year - like the one that comes in the Livewire. This type is easier to use than the online activity calendar (the formatting is too cumbersome to use online and print off ).  
Thanks much!
- Building in make-up snow days into the school calendar is a great idea. Good luck with the calendar as I know it's not easy to please everyone. Thank you for giving us a chance to give our input.
- Spring break would be great later in March , not the first week.  
Once schedule is established. Keep it consistent and keep parents informed. Thank You
- Thanks for getting input. I think this is a great way to get more involvement by the district.
- **WHEN DISCUSSING SPRING BREAK, I THINK IT SHOULD ALWAYS BE USED AS POSSIBLE MAKE UP SNOW DAYS VERSUS ADDING TIME TO THE END OF THE YEAR.**
- I prefer starting early enough that we can build in enough snow days to allow for making those up during the school year rather than tacking them on the end and going into June.
- current parent of some future students
- alternate early outs and late starts. have more snow days built into the schedule. if there is a spring break tell people not to make plans so you can use that whole time to make up snow days. have a shorter christmas break.
- A BIG thank you for asking for input outside of the Calendar Committee. I appreciate it!
- Thanks for asking!!!
- Daycare is much easier to arrange for early out days.
- I feel the mid start and mid end is better for the fact that time is built in more for make up snow days if needed and they are getting out of school before June. Also is there away that more snow make up days could be added throughout the year? Thanks for all that you do!
- there should be more snow days incorporated in to the calendar and school should start at 8:20 and should end at 3:40
- Change starting and ending time for High School Students. High school should start after and end Before Middle and Elementary Schools.