

**A Guide
to AISD's**

**4-day
Instructional
School Week**

A three-year pilot program

Why a four-day instructional week?

A word from
AISD Superintendent
Blake Stiles



Athens ISD's mission statement is to graduate all students college and work ready. It's an ambitious goal and one we take very seriously. So how does a school district attract and retain the best instructors in order to provide students with the best teaching and learning opportunities?

The answer, we believe, is to become one of the first public school districts in the state of Texas to fully adopt a four-day instructional week. Without a doubt, launching this three-year pilot program is a huge undertaking with many questions, concerns and logistical issues for families to work through. We have asked the same questions, grappled with the same concerns and do not dismiss the effort that will be required to take advantage of this unique opportunity. The leadership team at Athens ISD has individually and collectively put in many hours of study, discussion and problem-solving. As a result, both the leadership team and elected board of trustees believe the longterm benefits of a four-day instructional week will significantly outweigh the challenges.

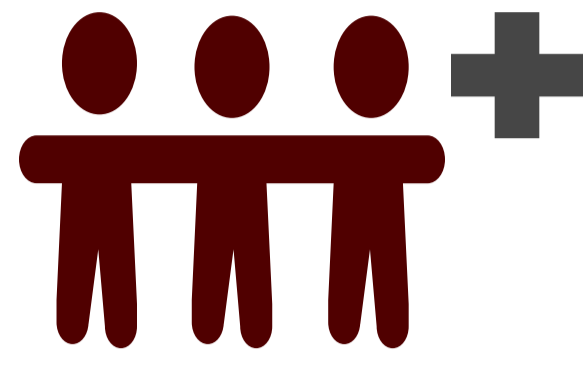
The primary benefits include a school calendar that will serve as a major inducement for retaining and recruiting quality teachers and staff; and being able to designate more time to staff development and preparedness for educating our students. Achieving these two goals alone will have a lasting and significantly positive impact on the children we are committed to serving.

I ask each of you to join us in achieving this ambitious and important goal. **The surest way to success is through a shared vision and mutual trust that we seek the very best for our children.** Together, we can and must achieve great things.

Blake Stiles
Superintendent, Athens ISD

Benefits of 4-day instructional week

“ Having and retaining the best teachers directly benefits student learning. ”



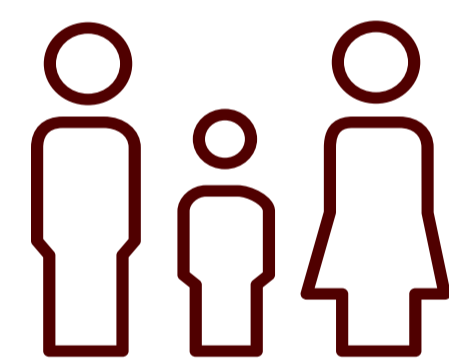
Recruitment & Retention

New calendar encourages top teachers and staff to not only come to AISD but also stay here when nearby districts can offer higher salaries.



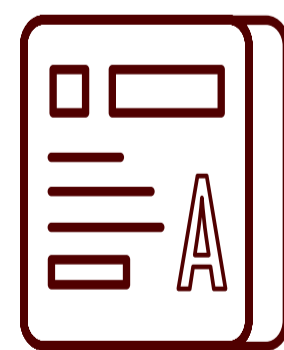
Student learning

Having and retaining the best teachers directly benefits student learning.



School culture & reduced absences

Studies of the four-day school week indicate it reduces behavior referrals. In some cases, it has been correlated with increased graduation rates.*



Preparedness

Instructional and support staff have more time to best prepare for classes and take advantage of professional development opportunities.

*Donis-Keller and Silvernail,
A Review of the Evidence on the Four-Day School Week

Q & A

QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

Will childcare be provided on Fridays?

After intensive study of all options, the leadership team has determined it is not viable for the district to provide childcare on Fridays. Families are asked to make accommodations for childcare as they would during school holidays and summer breaks. A few local organizations have offered discounted rates for schedules impacted by the four-day week. For those specific names, please call the District Support Center at 903-677-6900.

Will meals be provided for students on Fridays?

Plans are being finalized to offer lunch at noon on Fridays at Central Athens Elementary. The program will be evaluated to determine the rate at which it is utilized.

How will a four-day instruction week impact athletics and other extracurricular activities that take place on Fridays?

AISD will continue to compete and participate on Fridays in athletic and other extracurricular activities, as required by UIL. Transportation will be provided on Fridays as needed for such activities. The UIL approved eligibility calendar is included in this guide.

Is the four-day instructional week being introduced for financial reasons?

No. The four-day instructional week is considered to be revenue neutral.

How does this impact students in the Early College High School program?

ECHS operates in partnership with Trinity Valley Community College, whose classes are Monday-Thursday. (This is why a Tuesday-Friday four-day week was not a viable schedule.) Therefore, we anticipate minimal impact on the ECHS program.

Has the district begun to see benefits from a four-day week? Yes

✱ Excerpt from an email by a campus principal

“

The four-day week is attracting experienced applicants! Each time I call a potential hire, I ask what attracted them to Athens. All have said they are excited about our calendar and the extra time it will allow them for planning and family.

”





* NO SCHOOL *
* DAYS *

2019 - 2020

ATHENS ISD SCHOOL CALENDAR

July

29 Staff Development / CONVOCATION
30-31 Staff Development

August

1-2 Staff Development
5 First Day of School

September

2 Labor Day Holiday
6 Staff Development

October

3 End of 1st Nine Weeks
4 Staff Development
7 Begin 2nd Nine Weeks

November

1 Staff Development
25-29 Thanksgiving Holidays

December

19 End of 2nd Nine Weeks
23-31 Christmas Holidays

January

1-3 Holidays
6 Begin 3rd Nine Weeks
10 Staff Development
20 MLK Holiday

February

7 Staff Development

March

12 End of 3rd Nine Weeks
16-20 Spring Break
23 Begin 4th Nine Weeks

April

3 Staff Development

May

1 Staff Development
25 Memorial Day Holiday
28 End of 4th Nine Weeks
29 Work Day / Graduation

1st Semester - 75 Days

2nd Semester - 78 Days

153 Student Days

166 Teacher Days

July 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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August 2019						
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September 2019						
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October 2019						
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November 2019						
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December 2019						
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March 2020						
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April 2020						
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May 2020						
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June 2020						
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Staff Development / Work Days
Holidays / Bad Weather Days
NO SCHOOL

Begin 9 Weeks
End 9 Weeks
Testing Days

* Calendar Subject to Change.

Board Approved
(1/24/2019)

Campus Bell Schedules



Elementary

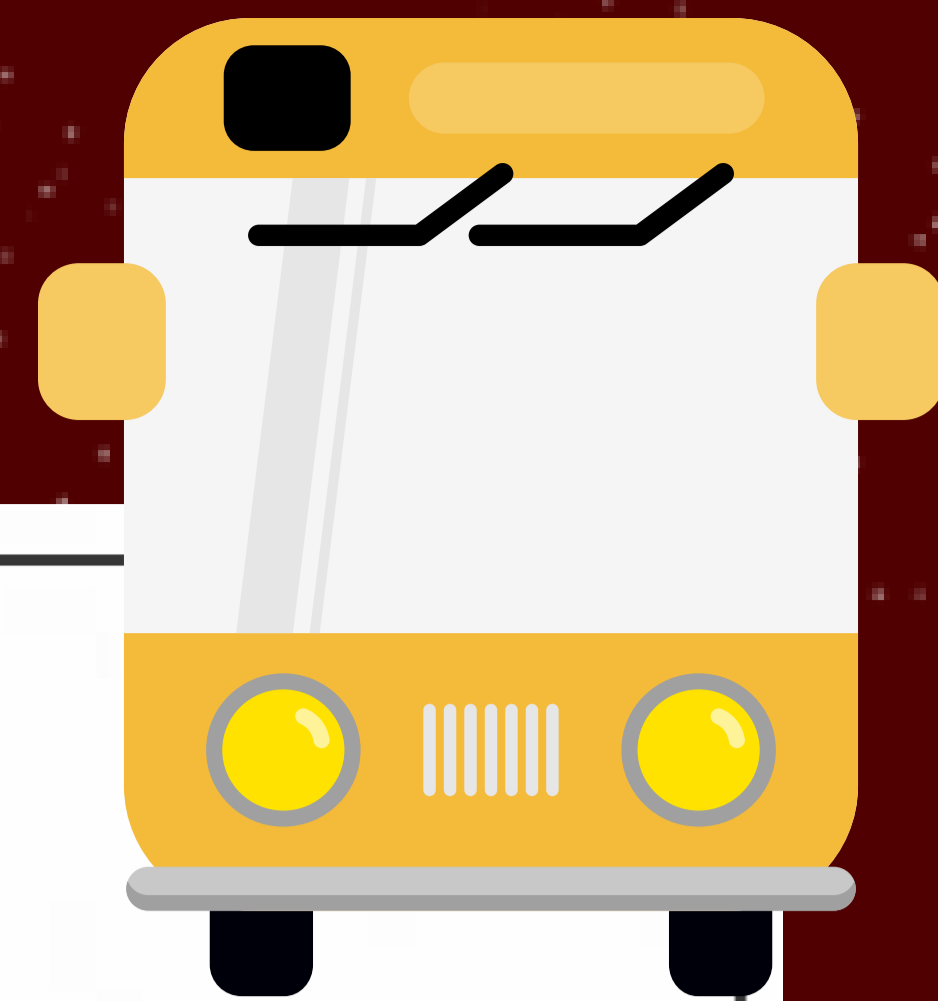
School Day 7:10-3:55	Breakfast	Lunch	Recess
	7:10-7:45		
Pre-K		10:45-11:15	10:05-10:35 & 1:25-1:45
Kindergarten		10:55-11:25	10:15-10:45 & 3:00-3:20
1st grade	<p style="color: red; text-align: center;">This is a sample. Elementary campuses have variations in schedules. Please contact your child's specific campus for exact schedule.</p>	11:15-11:45	10:45-11:15
2nd grade		11:45-12:15	1:15-1:45
3rd grade		12:00-12:30	1:45-2:15
4th grade		12:15-12:45	2:30-3:00
5th grade		11:30-12:00	12:00-12:30
	- FOOD by Your Brand		
* Tardy bell rings at 7:45			

AMS

Period 6th grade	Start Time	End Time	Period 7th grade	Start Time	End Time	Period 8th grade	Start Time	End Time
1st Period	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	1st Period	8:03 AM	9:03 AM	1st Period	8:06 AM	9:06 AM
2nd Period	9:03 AM	10:03 AM	2nd Period	9:06 AM	10:06 AM	2nd Period	9:09 AM	10:09 AM
3rd Period	10:06 AM	11:06 AM	3rd Period	10:09 AM	11:09 AM	3rd Period	10:12 AM	11:12 AM
LUNCH	11:06 AM	11:36 AM	4th Period	11:12 AM	12:12 PM	4th Period	11:15 AM	12:15 PM
HT	11:39 AM	12:09 PM	LUNCH	12:12 PM	12:42 PM	5th Period	12:18 PM	1:18 PM
4th Period	12:12 PM	1:12 PM	HT	12:45 PM	1:15 PM	LUNCH	1:18 PM	1:48 PM
5th Period	1:15 PM	2:15 PM	5th Period	1:18 PM	2:18 PM	HT	1:51 PM	2:21 PM
6th Period	2:18 PM	3:18 PM	6th Period	2:21 PM	3:21 PM	6th Period	2:24 PM	3:24 PM
7th Period	3:21 PM	4:22 PM	7th Period	3:24 PM	4:24 PM	7th Period	3:27 PM	4:25 PM

AHS 2019-2020

Description / Period	Start Time	End Time	ECHS
1st Period	8:10 AM	9:10 AM	8:00-9:15
2nd and 6th Period	9:15 AM	10:45 AM	9:25 -10:40
3rd B and 7th B Period	10:50 AM	12:20 PM	10:50 -12:05
3rd A and 7th A Period	11:20 AM	12:50 PM	10:50 -12:05
A Lunch	10:45 AM	11:15 AM	12:05 -1:10
B Lunch	12:20 PM	12:50 PM	
4th Period	12:55 PM	1:55 PM	
5th Period and 8th Period	2:00 PM	3:30 PM	1:40-2:55
9th Period	3:35PM	4:35PM	



Athens ISD Bus Schedule 2019-2020 (p.m. only)

Times

Reg Ed	Sp Pop 4:15	Sp Pop 4:00	Sp Pop 4:30
AMS 4:25			
BAE/CAE/SAE 4:10			
AHS 4:40	AMS	BAE/CAE/SAE	AHS

Central

1
11
20
22
23
25
27
30
33
35
46

South

7
8
10
12
14
17
31
32

Bel Air

2
5
6
13
15
18
28
34



Morning pickup times will be unchanged. For more information, call the bus barn at 903-677-6912.

UIL ELIGIBILITY CALENDAR

NO SCHOOL

2019 - 2020

ATHENS ISD SCHOOL CALENDAR

September
 12 Grade Check
 13-19 Grace Period
 19 Gain/Lose Eligibility

October
 3 End of 1st Nine Weeks/Grade Check
 4-9 Grace/Waiting Period
 7 Begin 2nd Nine Weeks
 10 Lose/Gain Eligibility
 29 Grade Check

November
 5 Regain Eligibility
 21 Grade Check
 25-29 Thanksgiving Holidays

December
 2 - 4 Grace Period
 9 Regain Eligibility
 19 End of 2nd Nine Weeks
 23-31 Christmas Holidays

January
 1-3 Holidays
 6 Begin 3rd Nine Weeks
 13 Lose/Gain Eligibility
 20 MLK Holiday
 28 Grade Check
 29-31 Grace/Waiting Period

February
 2 - 3 Grace/Waiting Period
 4 Regain Eligibility
 20 Grace Check
 21-26 Grace/Waiting Period
 27 Regain Eligibility

March
 12 End of 3rd Nine Weeks/Grade Check
 16-20 Spring Break
 23 - 29 Grace Period
 23 Begin 4th Nine Weeks
 30 Lose/Gain Eligibility

April
 14 Grade Check
 15 -20 Grace Period
 21 Regain Eligibility

May
 7 Grade Check
 8-13 Grace Period
 14 Regain Eligibility
 25 Memorial Day Holiday
 28 End of 4th Nine Weeks

July 2019

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Holidays / Bad Weather Days (light blue background)

Grace or Waiting period (blue wavy line)

Begin 9 Weeks (green box)

End 9 Weeks (red box)

* This eligibility calendar was approved by University Interscholastic League