

Tri-District Calendar Survey Results

Jake Lehrhoff (on behalf of Calendar Review Subcommittee)
Oct 29 2025

Methodology

Timing: September 26–October 14th, 18 days

Communication: shared through official school channels in each district

Accessibility: available in 9 languages

Participation: 1912 responses

LPS/SPS/LSRHS Calendar Survey

The School Committees for Lincoln Public Schools (LPS), Sudbury Public Schools (SPS), and Lincoln–Sudbury Regional High School (LSRHS) are reviewing the school calendar for the 2026-2027 school year and beyond, specifically how religious and cultural observances are addressed.

Estimated time to complete this survey: ~7 minutes

Purpose

This survey is one of several ways our school committees are gathering feedback from staff, families, and community members. We are currently considering four approaches:

1. **Keep the current calendar without any changes** (keep state and federal holidays, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Good Friday (½ day in LPS) as school holidays and do not add the proposed new holidays).
2. **Add closures for Diwali, Lunar New Year, Eid al-Fitr, and Eid al-Adha** (school year may be extended by up to 4 days)
3. **Observe only state and federal holidays** (remove Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Good Friday; school year may be shortened by 3 days).
4. **Rotate a limited number of non-state and federal holidays** (from a pool including Diwali, Lunar New Year, Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Good Friday). For example, year 1 may include no-school days for 2-3 of those holidays, year 2 may include no-school days for 2-3 other holidays.

Your input will help us balance multiple factors, including the religious and cultural traditions across our community, childcare needs on no-school days, impact on summer break length, instructional continuity, and contractual and cost implications.

Confidentiality & Reporting

Responses are **anonymous**. Results will be reported **in aggregate** (totals/percentages). We may share summaries by broad groups (e.g., Families, Staff, Community), and to protect privacy, we will **not report small subgroups**.

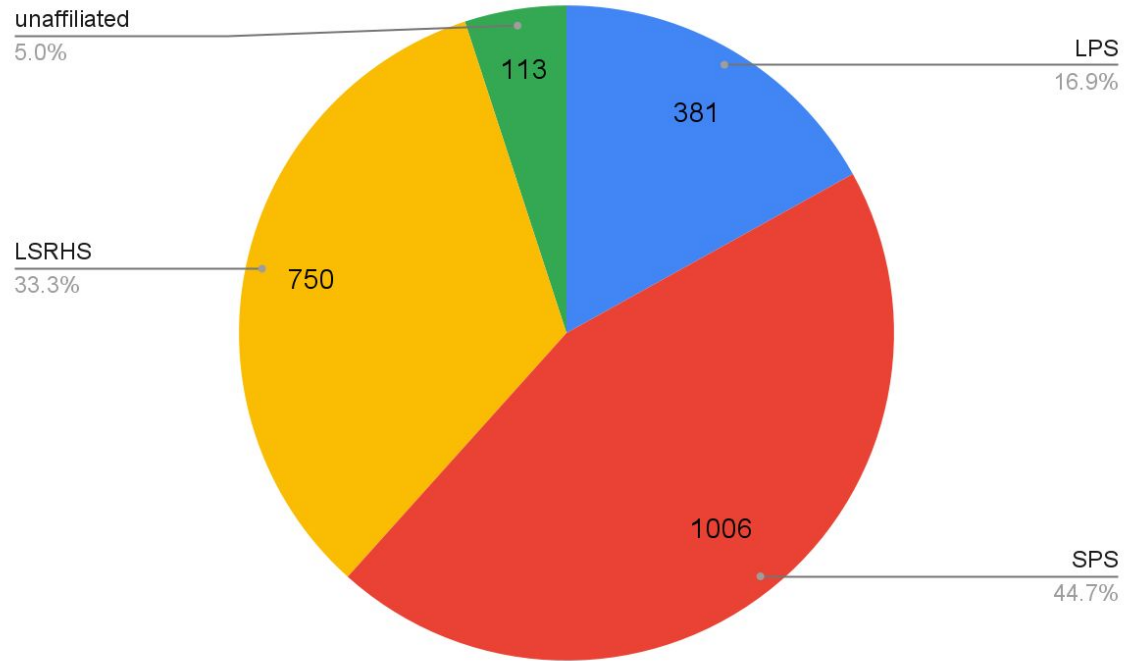
Key Notes for All Respondents

Survey Participation

Who took the survey? School

Significant portions of each district participated

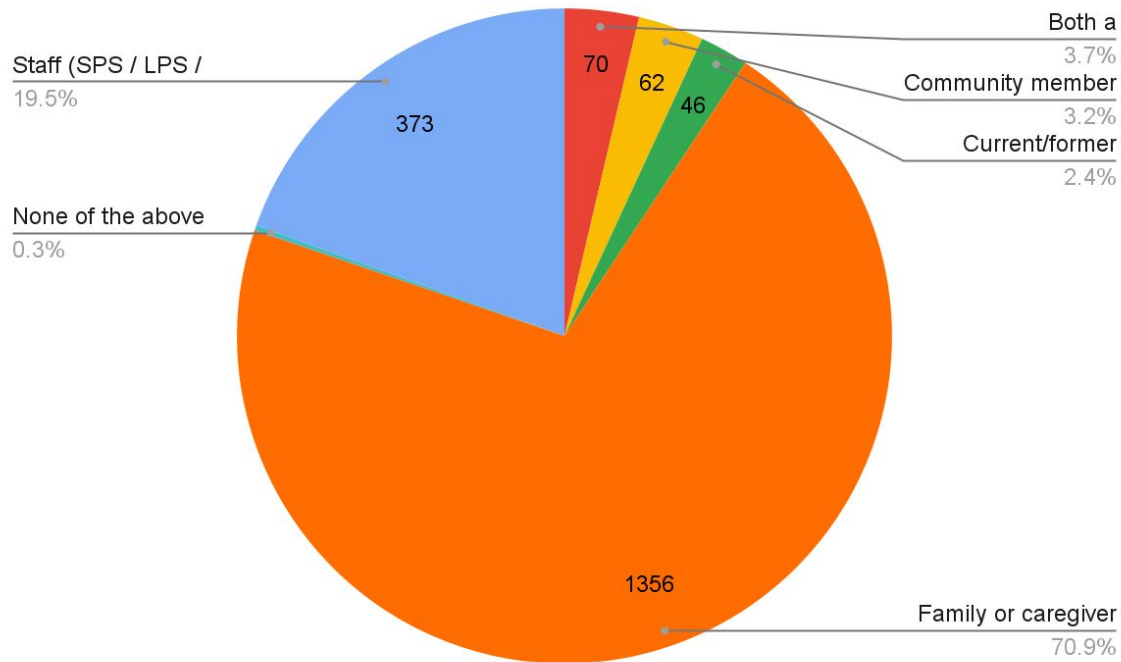
Note: participants were able to select more than one school



Who took the survey? Role

Family/caregiver represented the majority of respondents

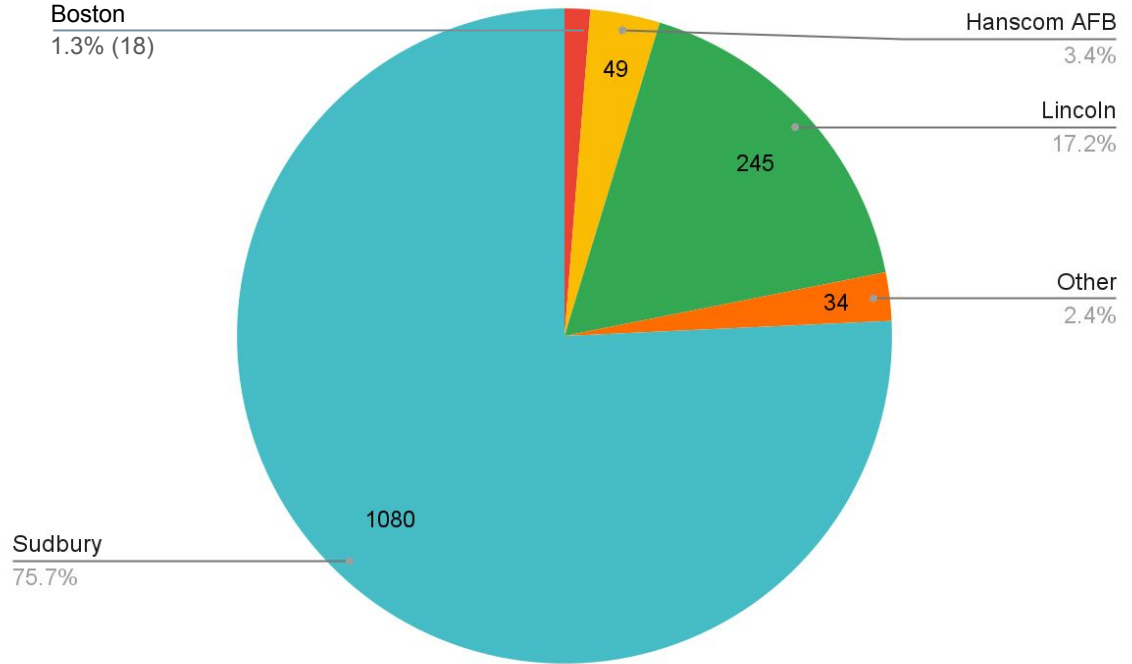
As expected, some community members and current/former students participated



Who took the survey? Residence

Low participation in Boston
and Hanscom means
generalizing from that data
isn't advisable

Note: "Other" represents staff that live
out of district



Expected Attendance
Family/caregiver

Critical question

(for administration)

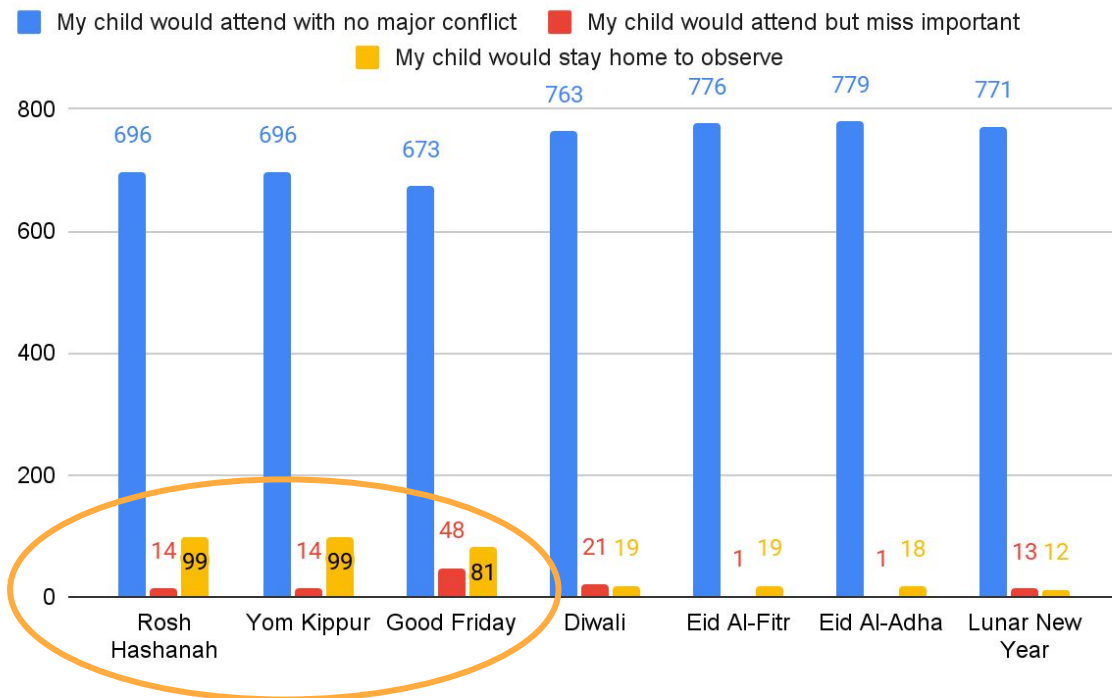
What amount of absences
meaningfully disrupt *operations*?

Attendance SPS

12% reported expected
absences on **Rosh Hashanah**
and **Yom Kippur**

10% reported expected
absences on **Good Friday**

Note: Grade-level breakdowns didn't
show meaningful differentiation in
rates



Attendance SPS

Diwali

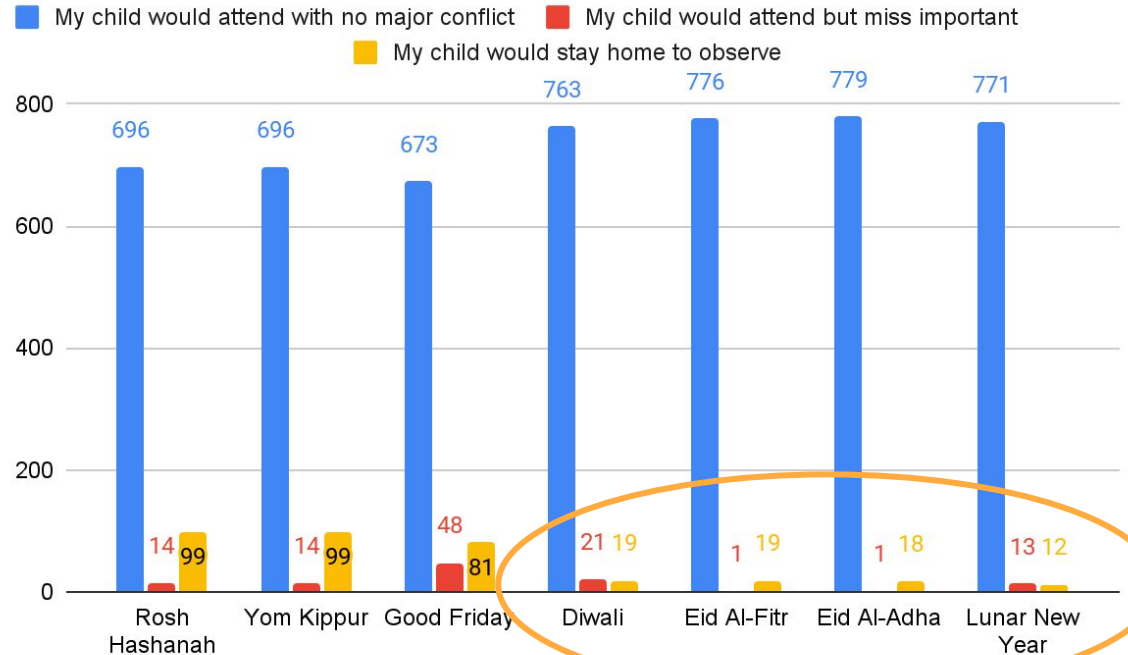
2.4% reported expected absences, with an add'l 2.6% who would miss observation to attend

Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha

2.4% reported expected absences

LNy

1.5% reported expected absences, with an add'l 1.4% who would miss observation



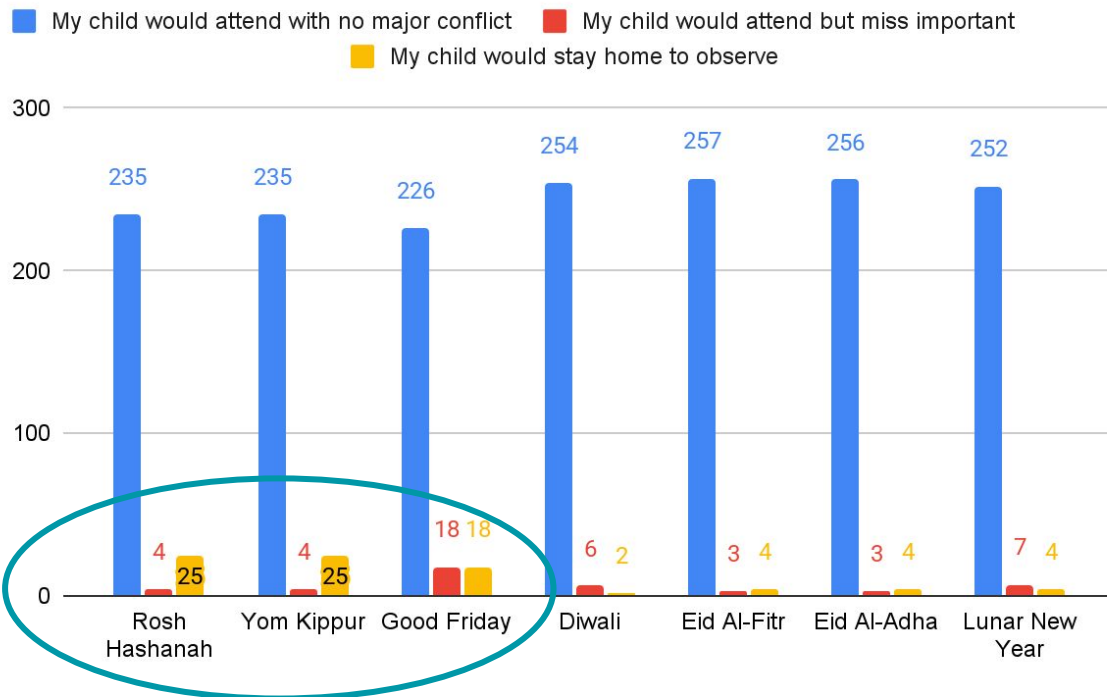
Attendance LPS

9.5% reported expected absences on **Rosh Hashanah** and **Yom Kippur**

7% reported expected absences on **Good Friday**, with an add'l 7% who would miss observance

Hanscom AFB: 9 of 47 reported expected absences on Good Friday (19%)

Note: Data from Hanscom in other categories were sparse



Attendance LPS

Diwali

2.4% reported expected absences, with an add'l 2.6% who would miss observation to attend

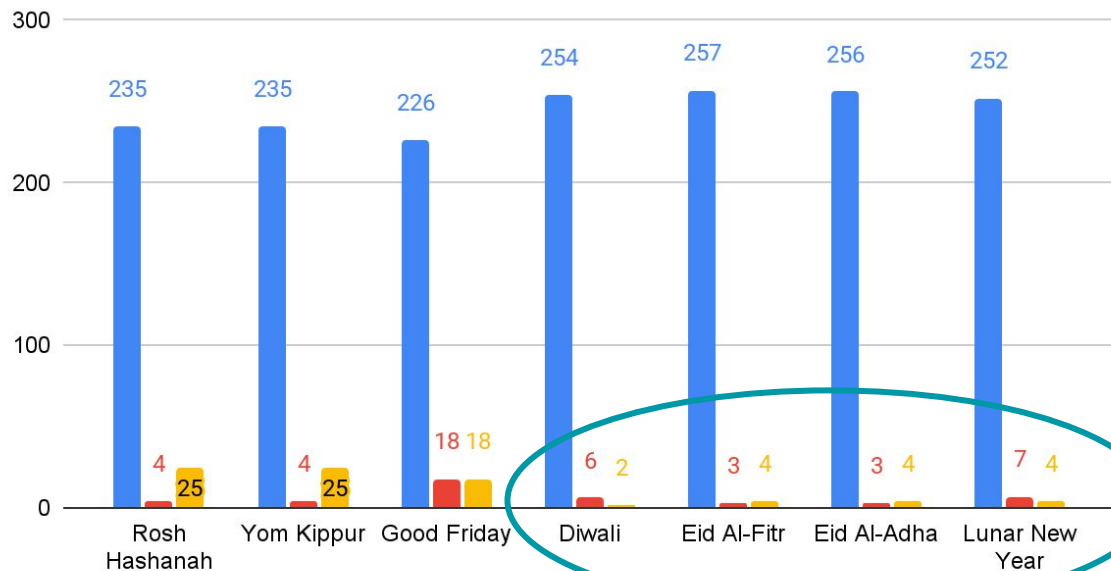
Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha

2.4% reported expected absences

LNy

1.5% reported expected absences, with an add'l 1.4% who would miss observation

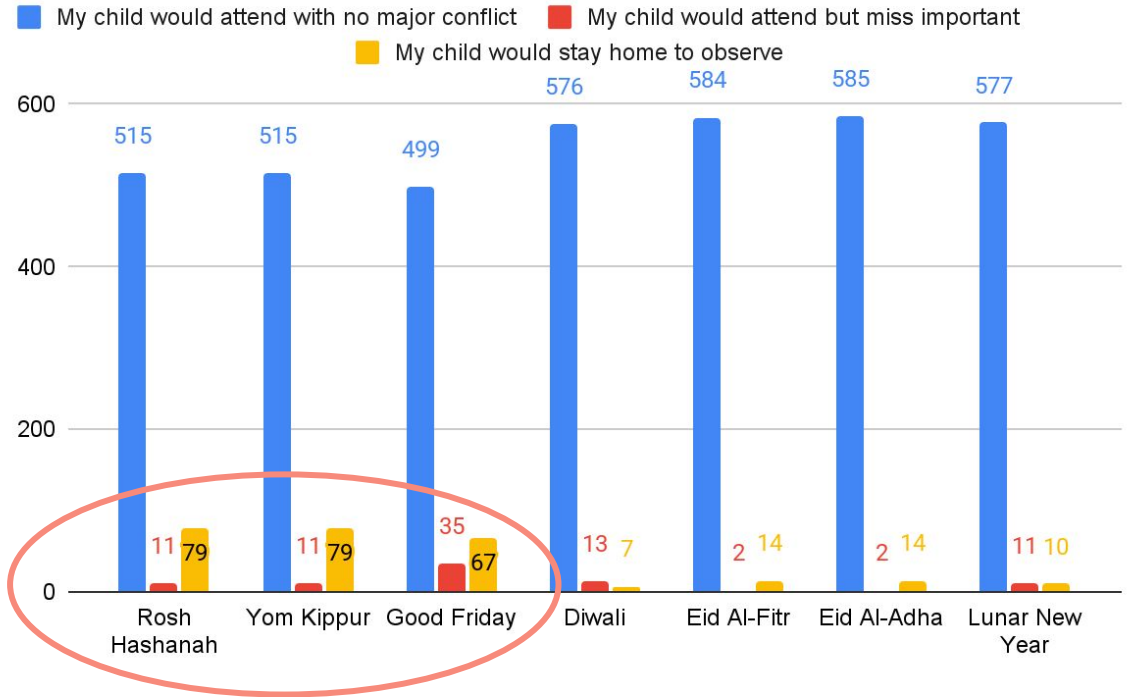
■ My child would attend with no major conflict ■ My child would attend but miss important
■ My child would stay home to observe



Attendance LSRHS

13% reported expected absences on **Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur**, with an add'l 2% missing observation

11% reported expected absences on **Good Friday**, with an add'l 6% missing observation



Attendance LSRHS

Diwali

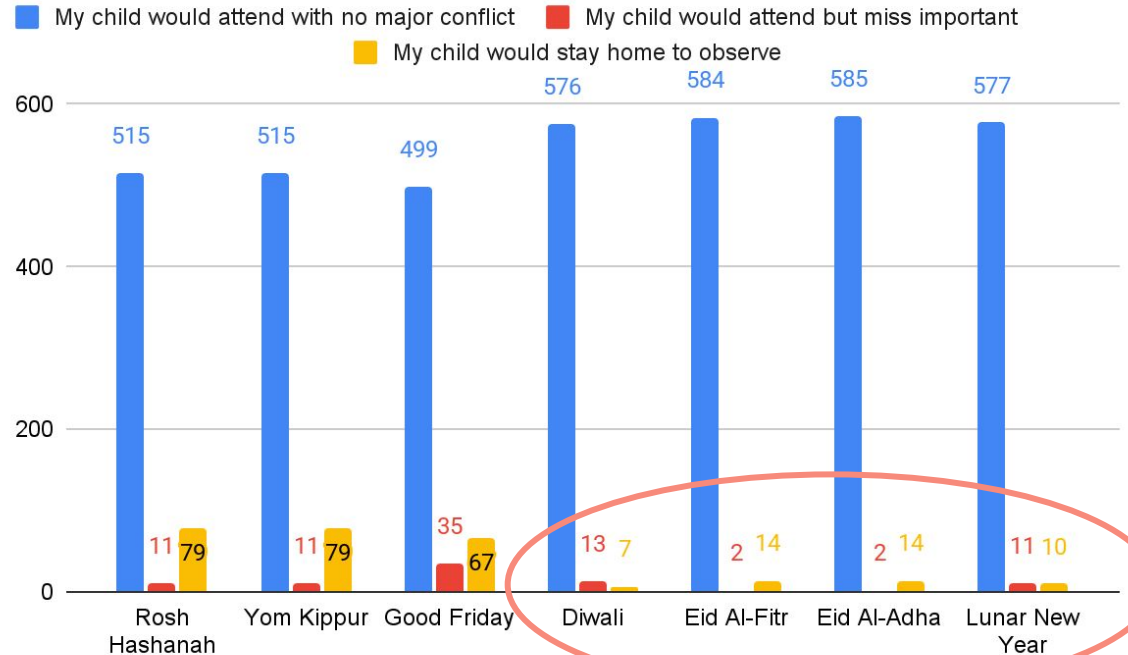
1.2% reported expected absences, with an add'l 2.2% who would miss observation to attend

Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha

2.3% reported expected absences

LNy

1.7% reported expected absences, with an add'l 1.8% who would miss observation



Expected Attendance
Staff

Critical question

(for administration)

What amount of absences
meaningfully disrupt *operations* or
meaningfully impact the *budget*?

Attendance SPS

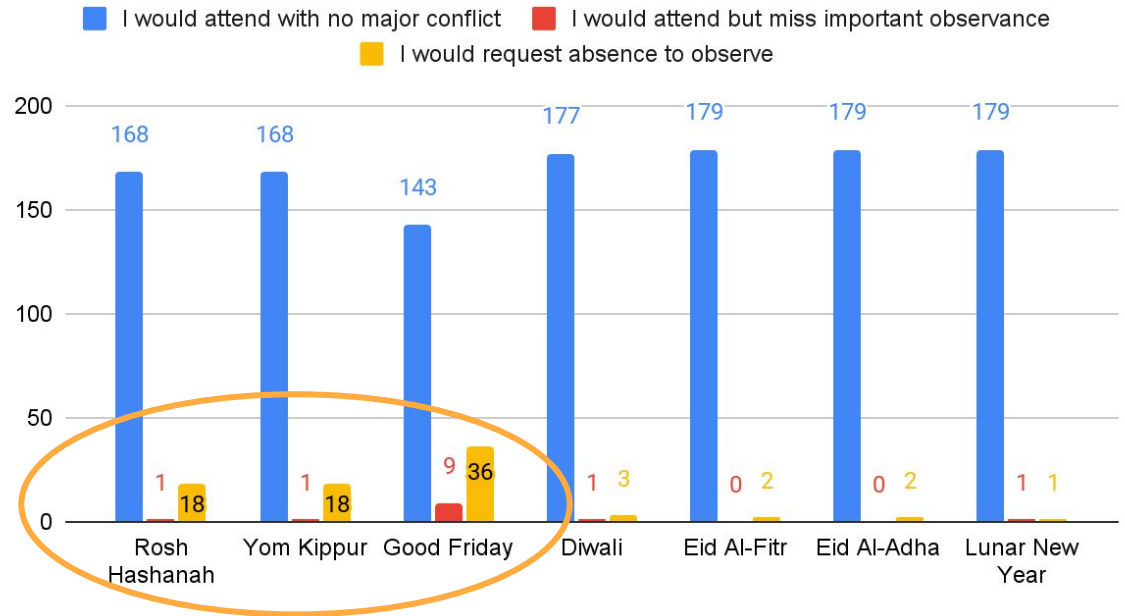
9.6% reported expected absences on **Rosh Hashanah** and **Yom Kippur**

19% reported expected absences on **Good Friday**

Add'l holidays

<2% of staff reported expected absences on the for proposed add'l holidays

SPS Staff Attendance on days of observance



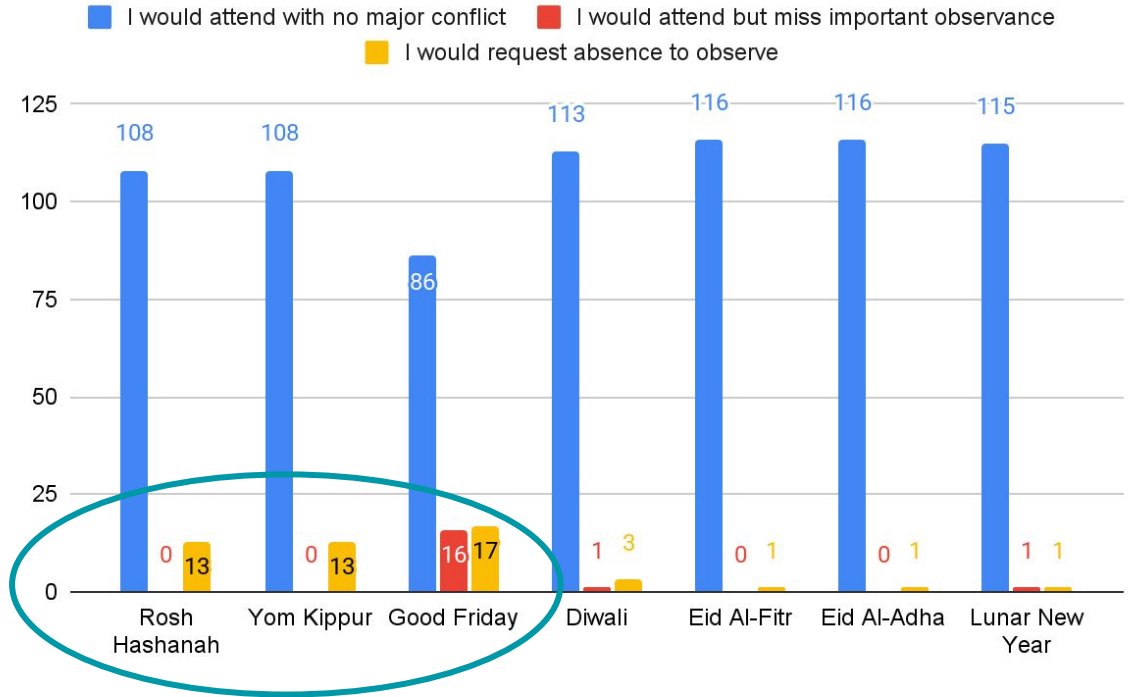
Attendance LPS

11% reported expected absences on **Rosh Hashanah** and **Yom Kippur**

14% reported expected absences on **Good Friday**, with an add'l 13% who would miss observance

Add'l holidays

<3% of staff reported expected absences on the for proposed add'l holidays



Attendance LSRHS

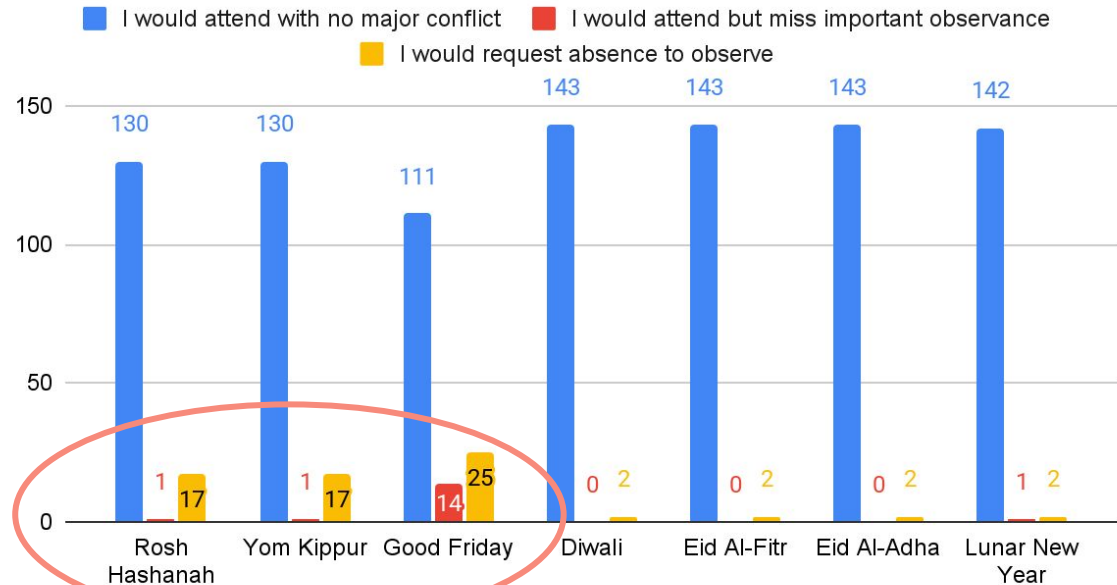
11.5% reported expected absences on **Rosh Hashanah** and **Yom Kippur**

17% reported expected absences on **Good Friday**, with an add'l 9% missing observation

Add'l holidays

<2% of staff reported expected absences on the for proposed add'l holidays

LSRHS Staff Attendance on days of observance



Calendar preference

Critical question

Which calendar do people want to see in their district?

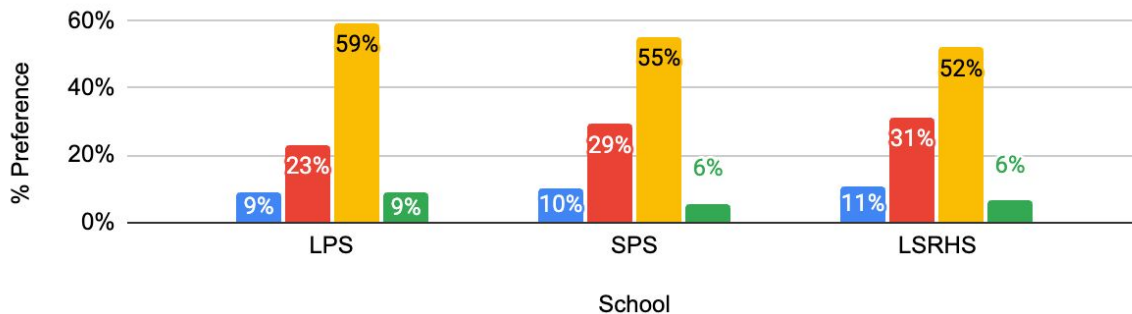
Calendar preference

Family

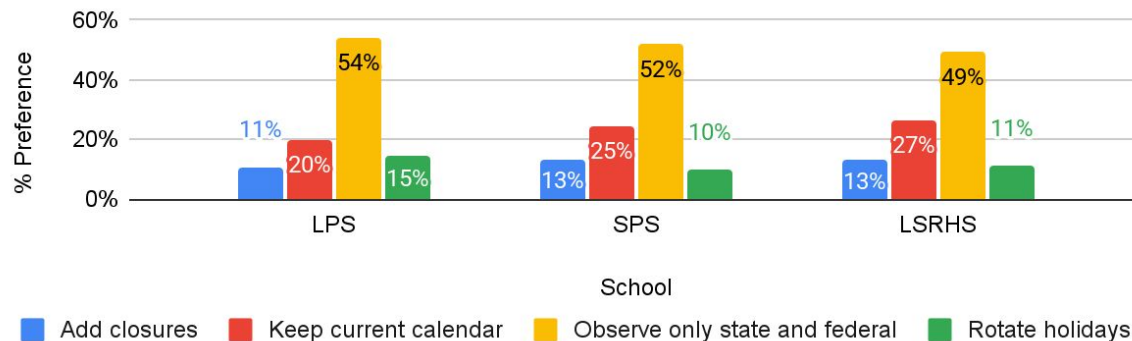
The **majority** of each district prefers only observing **state and federal holidays**

Participants generally believed the **community would benefit** from additional holidays more than they personally would

Family: Own preference



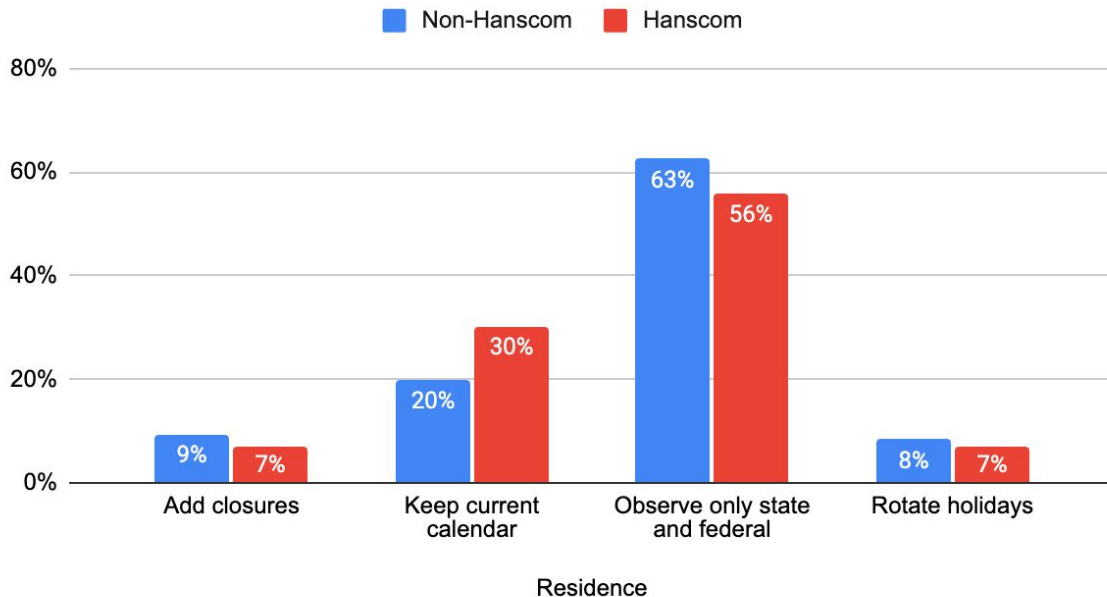
Family: Thinking beyond own preference



Calendar preference Lincoln/Hanscom

Hanscom shows notably **higher support** than Lincoln School for maintaining the current calendar

Lincoln School vs Hanscom



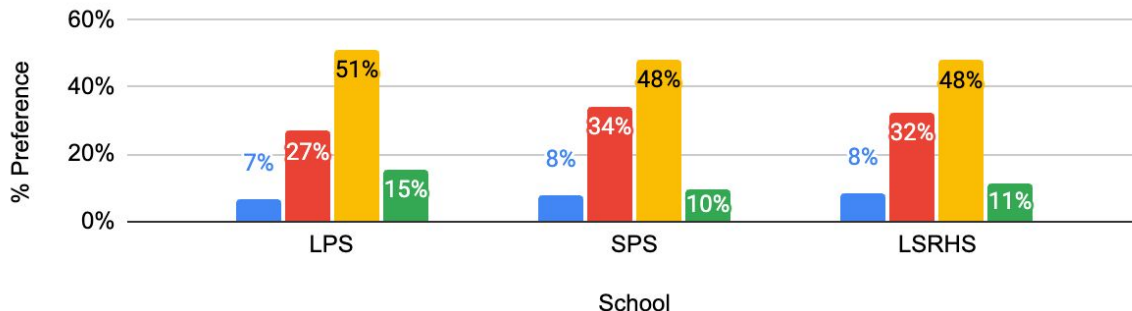
Calendar preference Staff

The **plurality** of each district prefers only observing **state and federal holidays**

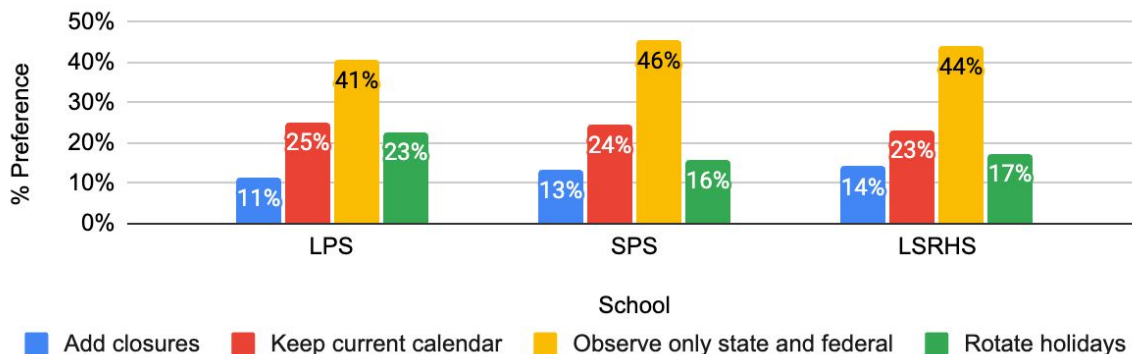
Staff shows stronger support than families for not changing the calendar

Staff also generally believed the **community would benefit** from additional holidays more than they personally would

Staff: Own preference



Staff: Thinking beyond own preference



Level of Support
Family/caregiver

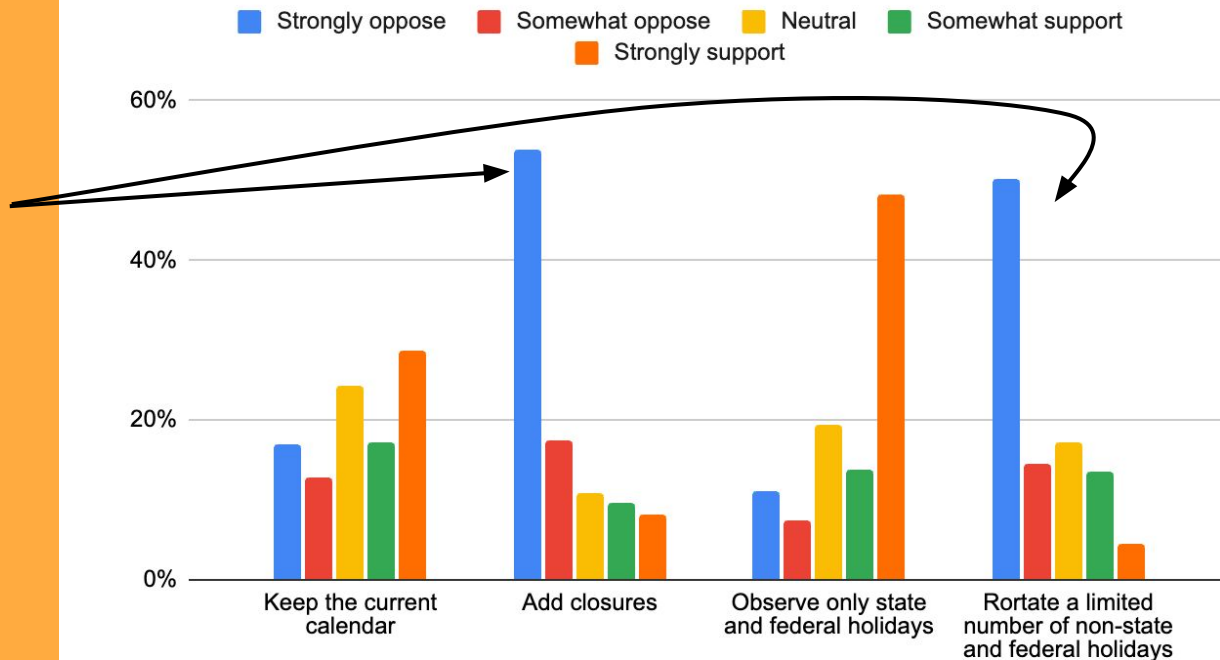
Critical question

Which calendars have strong support?
Which have strong opposition?

Calendar preference SPS

Key insights

Strong opposition and minimal support for adding or rotating closures

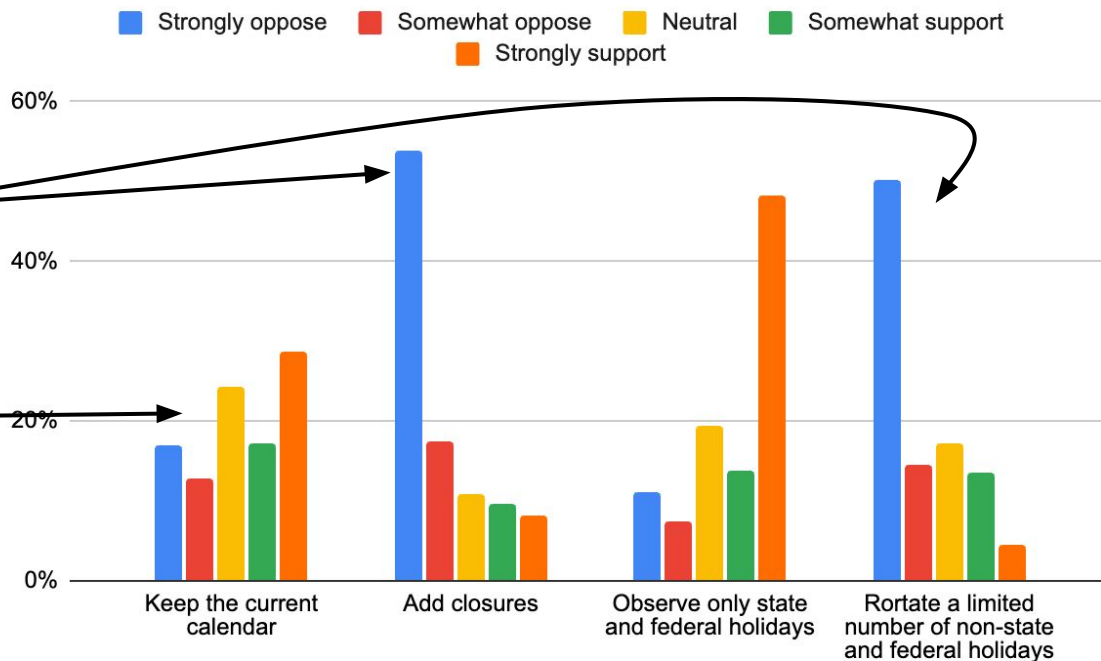


Calendar preference SPS

Key insights

Strong opposition and minimal support for adding or rotating closures

Low opposition to current calendar



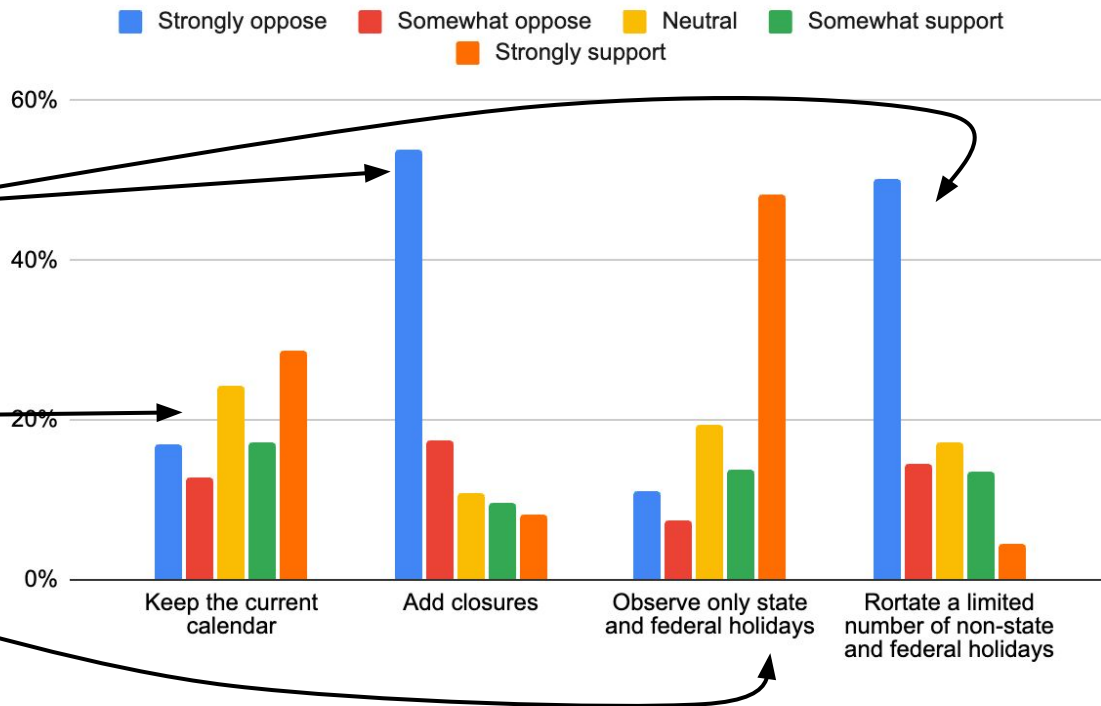
Calendar preference SPS

Key insights

Strong opposition and minimal support for adding or rotating closures

Low opposition to current calendar

Strong support with minimal opposition for observing only state & federal



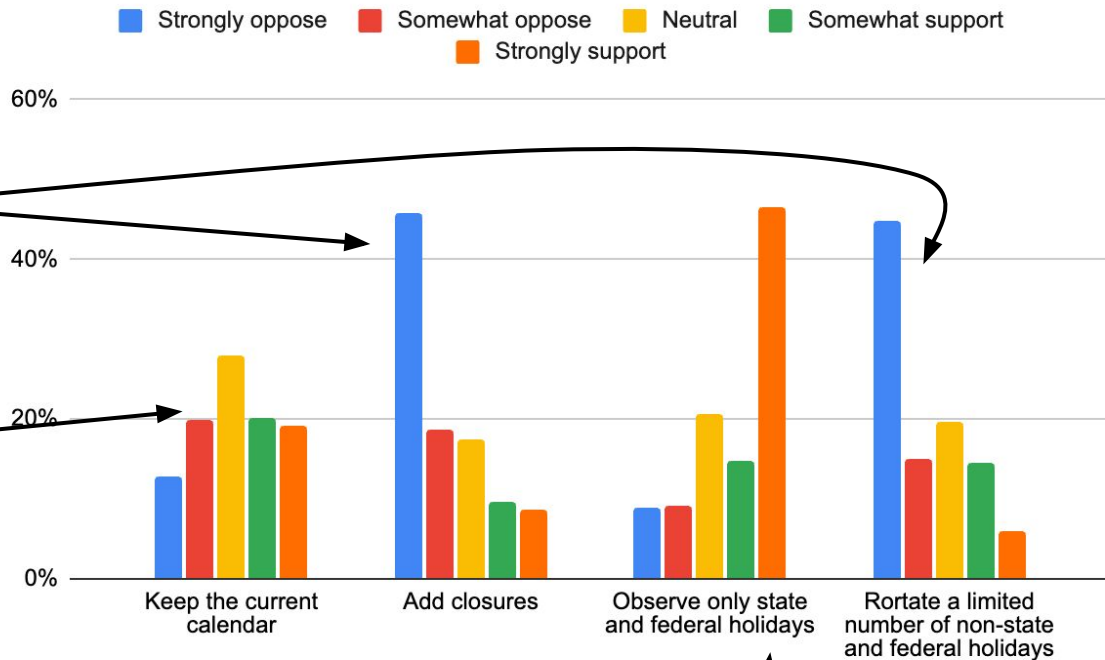
Calendar preference LPS

Similar patterns to SPS

Narrowly lower strong opposition for adding or rotating closures than SPS

Slightly more neutral to keeping the current calendar than SPS

Narrowly lower strong support for observing only state and federal holidays



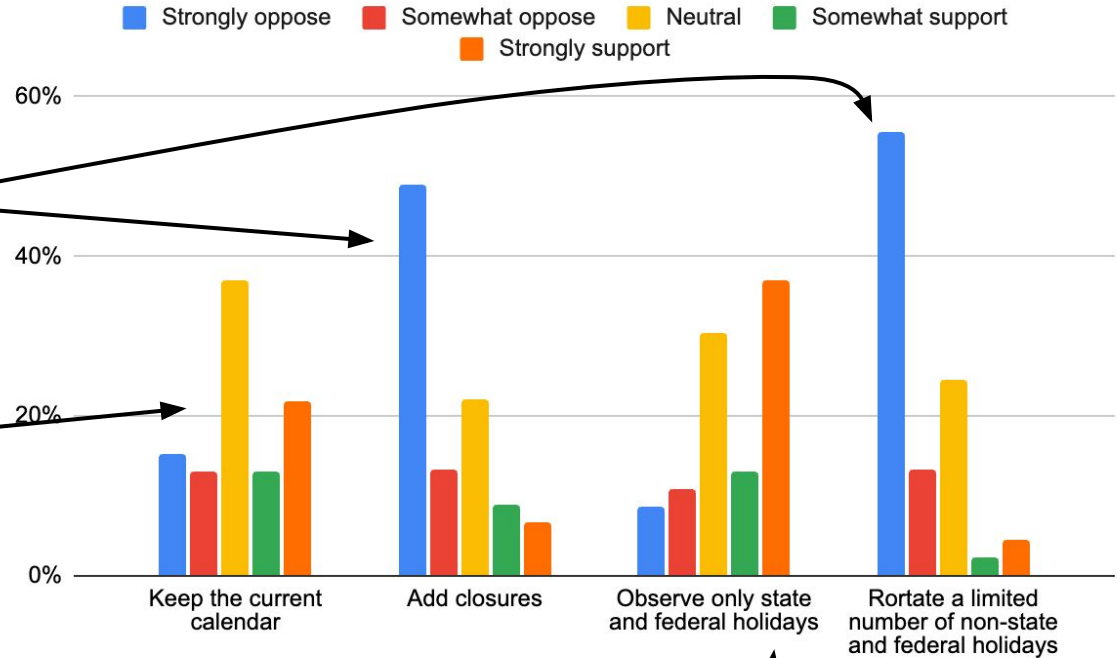
Calendar preference LPS: Hanscom

Relative to LPS overall

Higher opposition for adding
or rotating closures than SPS

More neutral to keeping the
current calendar than SPS

More neutral to observing
only state and federal
holidays



Calendar preference

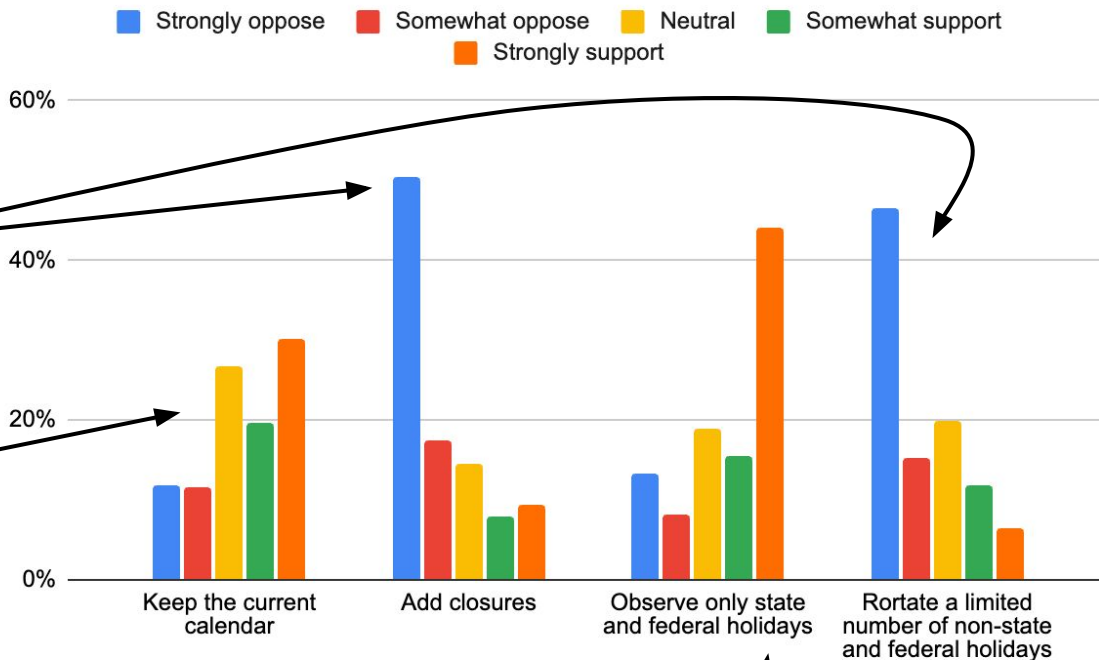
LSRHS

Similar to SPS & LPS in all responses

Opposition to adding or rotating closures is similar to SPS

Similar neutral/support to maintaining the current calendar

Slightly lower strong support for state and federal than SPS or LPS



Level of Support **Staff**

Critical question

Does staff have different preferences than families?

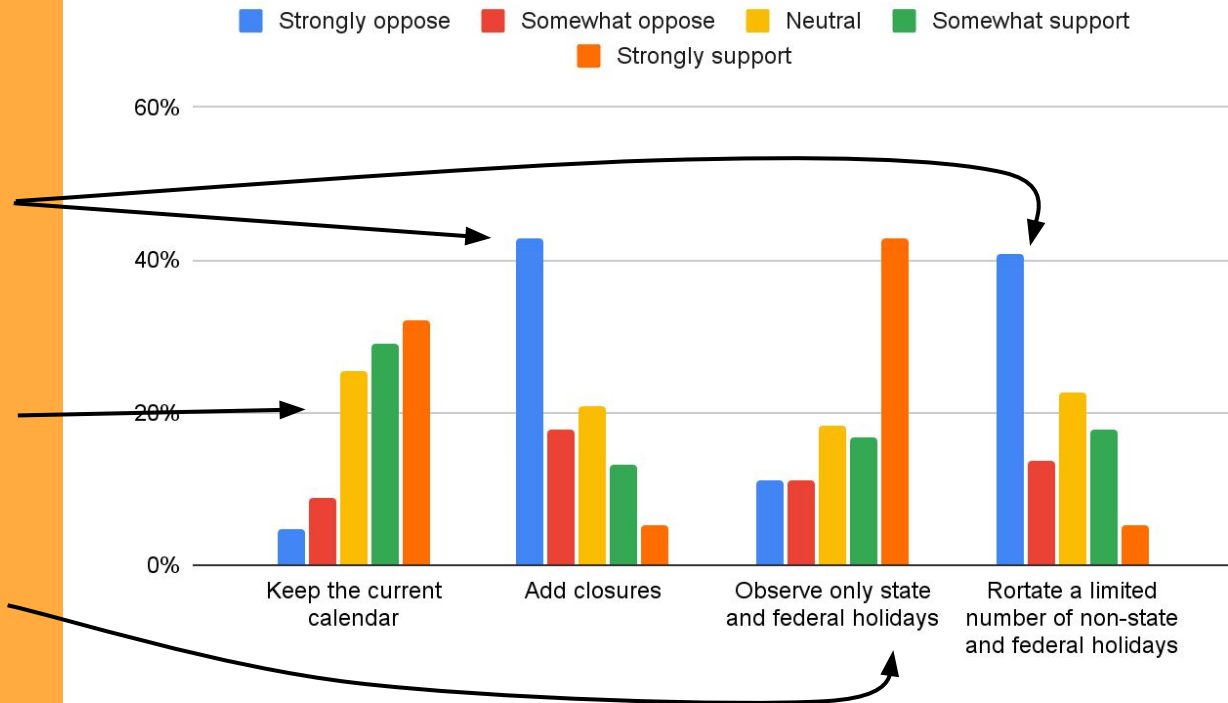
Calendar preference SPS

Compared to SPS families

More neutral support than families for adding or rotating closures

Higher support than families for the current calendar

Strong support for state & federal, but slightly lower than families



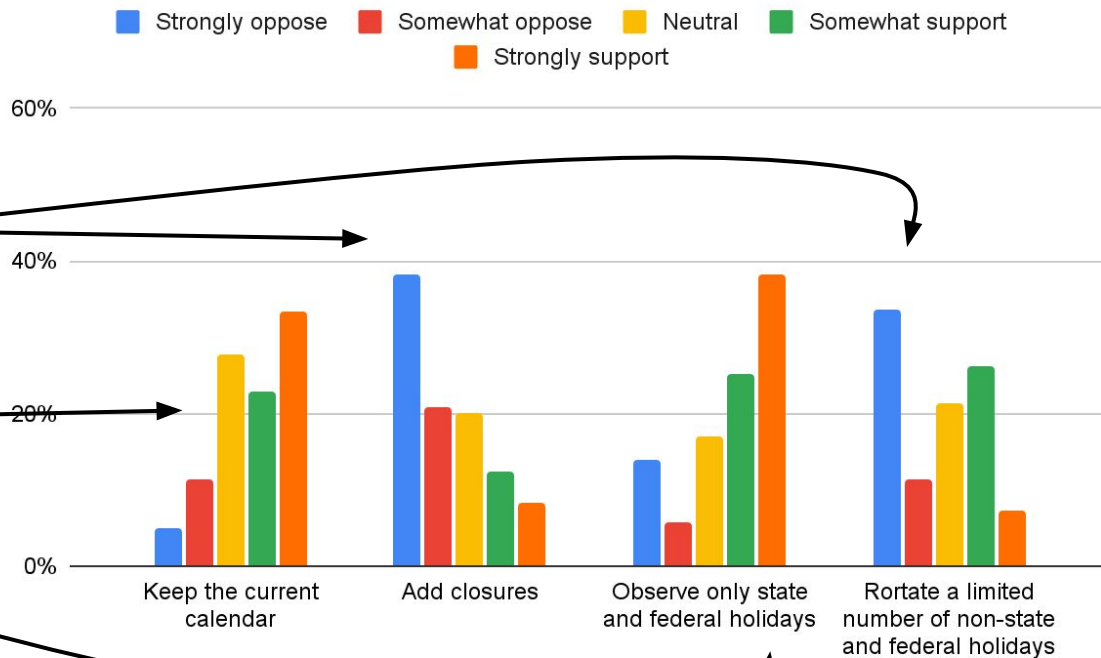
Calendar preference LPS

Compared to LPS families

Lower opposition to adding closures or rotating closures than families

More support for keeping the current calendar than families

Strong support for state and federal, but lower than families



Calendar preference

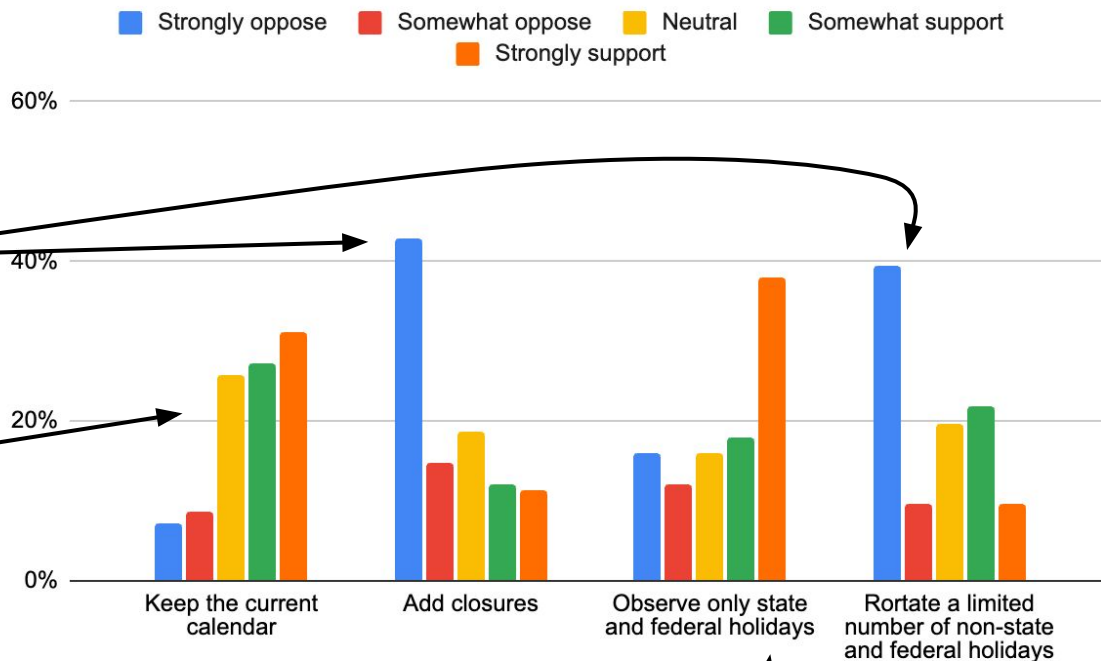
LSRHS

Similar to SPS & LPS in all responses

Lower strong opposition than families to adding closures or rotating closures

Minorsly higher support than families for the current calendar

Strong support for state & federal, but slightly lower than families



Thank you!