



# Lincoln Public Schools

REBECCA MCFALL, Ed.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

To: School Committee  
From: Rebecca McFall  
Re: Results of Snow Day Make-up Survey  
Date: February 27, 2015

As a result of the district having used all five of its allocated snow days for the current school year, faculty, staff, and parents/guardians were asked to respond to a survey regarding preferences on how to make up any additional snow days that might happen between February 23 and March 31, 2015. In addition to requesting demographics of respondents, the survey asked the following three questions about preferences on how, if it becomes necessary, school days should be made up. The survey closed on February 26; below is a summary of the 618 responses received.

2. If we have **ONE additional snow day** that must be made up, my preference for adding a school day is ([choose one](#)):

Good Friday (April 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
June 25<sup>th</sup>  
April Vacation

Saturday  
Other  
Comments

## Question #2 Results

	% of Responses Received				
	Good Friday	June 25 <sup>th</sup>	April Vacation	Saturday	Other
Administrators (13)	85	15	0	0	0
Faculty Members (93)	80	18	1	1	0
Staff Members (81)	78	17	5	0	0
Parents/Guardians (428)	68	16	10	2	2
Other (3)	33	0	33	0	33
<b>All Respondents (618)</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

3. If we have **TWO additional snow days** that must be made up, my preference for adding school days is ([choose up to two](#)):

Good Friday (April 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
June 25<sup>th</sup>  
June 26<sup>th</sup> (would require faculty to work Monday, June 29)  
April Vacation

Saturday  
Other  
Comments

### Question #3 Results

	% of Responses Received					
	Good Friday	June 25 <sup>th</sup>	June 26 <sup>th</sup>	April Vacation	Saturday	Other
Administrators (13)	85	54	8	38	8	0
Faculty Members (93)	83	73	9	12	13	6
Staff Members (81)	77	68	14	23	4	5
Parents/Guardians (428)	67	51	9	36	12	5
Other (3)	67	67	33	33	0	33
<b>All Respondents (618)</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>

4. If we have **THREE OR MORE additional snow days** that must be made up, my preference for adding school days is (choose as many as needed, and provide explanation, as needed, in comment box):

Good Friday (April 3<sup>rd</sup>)

June 25<sup>th</sup>

June 26<sup>th</sup> (would require faculty to work Monday, June 29)

April Vacation

Saturday

Other

Comments

### Question #4 Results

	% of Responses Received					
	Good Friday	June 25 <sup>th</sup>	June 26 <sup>th</sup>	April Vacation	Saturday	Other
Administrators (13)	69	23	31	69	38	0
Faculty Members (93)	83	29	53	42	27	10
Staff Members (81)	70	28	49	44	18	14
Parents/Guardians (428)	63	26	32	61	24	7
Other (3)	67	0	67	67	0	33
<b>All Respondents (618)</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>

Based upon the results of the survey and the comments received, below are some clarifications:

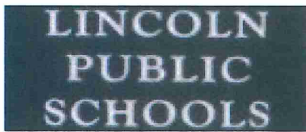
- We cannot extend Wednesdays; extending the day does not add another day because Wednesdays already count as a school day, so this would not allow us to meet the 180-day requirement. Monday, April 20 is Patriots Day (a state holiday) and, therefore, we cannot hold school on that day; we cannot hold school on state or federal holidays (i.e., Columbus Day, Veterans Day, New Year's Day, Patriots Day, Memorial Day, etc.).
- At this time, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has not given approval for programs where students work virtually on snow days or for students to complete work in a "blizzard bag" (there are pilot programs taking place in some districts).
- The state does not issue waivers for a few snow days beyond the five.
- Even when a State of Emergency is called by the Governor, it counts as a snow day.

Based on the results, I am making the following recommendations for make-up days in the event that we have additional snow days:

1. Good Friday – half day\*
2. June 25<sup>th</sup> – half day\*
3. April vacation week starting with Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> and working back towards Tuesday, April 21.

*\* We need to determine whether holding half days will allow us to meet our time on learning requirements; this will be provided at the School Committee meeting.*

Attachments: Survey Comments



Janice Gross <jgross@lincnet.org>

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## Snow Day Survey

1 message

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Becky McFall <bmcfall@lincnet.org>

Fri, Feb 13, 2015 at 10:10 AM

To: All Users <allusers@lincnet.org>

Dear Families, Faculty, and Staff,

We have currently used five snow days during this school year. Our Academic Calendar has five snow days built in. Therefore, at the moment we are on track with the final school day for students being June 24<sup>th</sup> as published.

As outlined in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regulations, <http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=6682> if we have additional snow days between now and March 31, we are required to make up these school days. Below, I have outlined our thinking about when we would hold make-up days, depending on the number of snow days we will need to make up. I would like your input into the days we should identify as make-up days in the case of additional snow days.

Please complete the four-question survey found at the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/B5B5V77> by February 26<sup>th</sup>. Based on input received, we will put a plan in place for making up snow days beyond the five days we have already had.

Proposed Plan for Making up additional snow days:

- If one make-up day is needed - hold school on Good Friday
- If two make-up days are needed - hold school on Good Friday and June 25
- If three or more make-up days are needed - hold school during the April vacation week and not on June 25

Thank you,

Becky McFall

Superintendent

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Rebecca McFall, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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# Snow Day Make-Up Survey

**\*1. I am a /an (please choose one of the following):**

- ☐ Administrator
- ☐ Faculty Member
- ☐ Staff Member
- ☐ Parent/Guardian
- ☐ Other

**2. If we have ONE additional snow day that must be made up, my preference for adding a school day is (choose one):**

- ☐ Good Friday (April 3rd)
- ☐ June 25th
- ☐ April Vacation
- ☐ Saturday
- ☐ Other

Comment

## Snow Day Make-Up Survey

**3. If we have TWO additional snow days that must be made up, my preference for adding school days is (choose up to two):**

- ☐ Good Friday (April 3rd)
- ☐ June 25th
- ☐ June 26th (would require faculty to work on Monday, June 29th)
- ☐ April Vacation
- ☐ Saturday
- ☐ Other

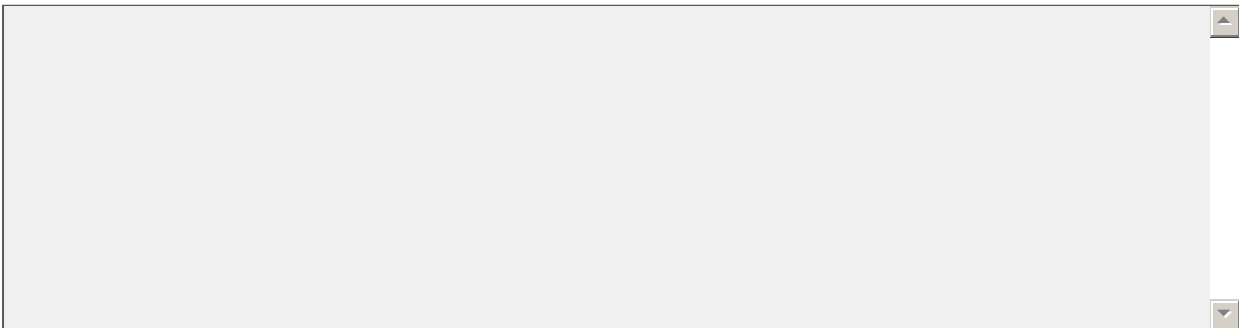
Comment



**4. If we have THREE OR MORE additional snow days that must be made up, my preference for adding school days is (choose as many as needed, and provide explanation, as needed, in comment box):**

- ☐ Good Friday (April 3rd)
- ☐ June 25th
- ☐ June 26th (would require faculty to work on Monday, June 29th)
- ☐ April Vacation
- ☐ Saturday
- ☐ Other

Comment



## Question #2 Comments

**If we have ONE additional snow day that must be made up, my preference for adding a school day is (choose one):**

Thanks for including us in the decision!

2/22/2015 9:56 PM

Make one or two Wednesdays full days or add some time (15-30mins) to full days until the time is made up.

2/21/2015 9:35 PM

Or Wednesday afternoons

2/18/2015 1:33 PM

I have already made plans for Good Friday and April vacation, so I would need to take a personal day if we had school that day. My day care runs on a school calendar and is not open during April vacation. I feel like we've gone to the very end of June other times, so I'm not sure why that would be an issue this year.

2/17/2015 11:33 AM

Neither, make Wednesdays full days so that you will not have to use the children and our holliday time.

2/17/2015 9:11 AM

We should not have these kind of religious holidays off anyway (Christmas excluded of course,since it isn't really a religious holiday anymore).

2/14/2015 5:59 PM

Extend school on a couple of Wednesdays

2/14/2015 8:25 AM

Extend Wednesday hours

2/14/2015 1:32 AM

Some children visit parents out of town during the breaks... can't you make them up by making wednesdays full days instead of half days?

2/13/2015 10:24 PM

Full day on Wednesday

2/13/2015 8:37 PM

High school finals will end June 26. Their makeup plans call for additional days after the final exams if needed.

2/13/2015 7:58 PM

My child would have to be absent if school was made up on Good Friday.

2/13/2015 4:33 PM

Good Friday is a religious holiday for some members of the community.

2/13/2015 4:23 PM

Why is Wednesday not an option like the LS proposed?

2/13/2015 4:12 PM

We already have vacation plans for April

2/13/2015 3:58 PM

Already have week in April. Away for Mon/Tues April Vacation week.

2/13/2015 3:32 PM

The least disruptive.

2/13/2015 2:10 PM

Saturday school did that at last school. Have plans for April not understanding February break. Please explain the need for February break? It is to cold to do anything. Tired already of the snow. Let the kids get out of school a week earlier if February break is gone for the next school year.

2/13/2015 2:07 PM



Make Wednesday a full day until time is made up.

2/13/2015 2:03 PM

Adding an extra day on the end of the year makes the most sense since it doesn't even involve going into another week and we would still get out before July.

2/13/2015 1:54 PM

Good Friday is a religious holiday and we observed other religious holidays.

2/13/2015 1:45 PM

Hopefully instead of having a full snow day for future days, if at all possible, we could delay school opening by a 2-3 hour delay.

2/13/2015 1:18 PM

Good Friday is also Passover starting that night

2/13/2015 12:58 PM

These kids miss way to much school as it is. So please hold school whenever you feel is necessary because my kids will be there.

2/13/2015 12:25 PM

Why can we not lengthen our 1/2 days? Every Wednesday is a 1/2 day for students, how about looking at those first?

2/13/2015 12:16 PM

We should definitely not hold an additional school day on April vacation

2/13/2015 11:57 AM

My daughter's 8th grade girl scout troop (Lincoln) has tickets leaving for a service trip to Puerto Rico on Thursday, June 25th. I am scheduled to accompany the troop on this trip. Currently, I already have an issue with the faculty having to work the additional day (the 26th) since that is the day of my flight. My concern with going any later in June would be that graduation would be put off and it would impact their trip that they have been planning and fund-raising for for over a year.

2/13/2015 11:56 AM

If only one day, then keep April Vacation in tact. I CANNOT emphasize enough that you should NOT extend the school year beyond June 24th!

2/13/2015 11:39 AM

Or april vacation

2/13/2015 11:32 AM

This would be a good time to get rid of ALL of the recently added religious holidays which only make an already thir calendar more difficult....there was a long period of time where Lincoln observed NO Jewish holidays and NO holiday for Good Friday. We should return to that ASAP.

2/13/2015 11:28 AM

I support taking a day or two from the end (Thursday/Friday) April Vacation to support the required school days. The students, families and teachers would have one long weekend at the beginning of the break which I feel is reasonable under the circumstances.

2/13/2015 11:25 AM

people who are observant can use a personal day for Good Friday.

2/13/2015 11:18 AM

Doesn't matter for us, we wont be there. Kids should not be made to make up snow days that extend the school year. If you have to, just throw some days on the books in April vacation and let students have an alternate kind of week. You'll get some students but a lot wont bother coming. Just whisper to parents that it isn't too serious and that not coming isn't a big deal. No reason to make families feel badly when they take a much needed break. Some school work maybe but nothing serious that others couldn't miss. I would group the grades together and mix it up or have an extra field day. You guys could do a some sort of theme that is connected in some way to the curriculum. Have some fun and experiment a little bit and see how it goes. Extending the year into late June is a waste of time, the

kids are fatigued and no one is learning anything notwithstanding the hard work that the teachers are trying to do in classrooms that could be 90 degrees. when it gets warm after a long year, especially when we get hammered with snow, more instructional time has a decreasing marginal value. Hard to believe that the district would have Saturday as an option. What kid is going to want to go to school on Saturday? People have lives. School is very important but not more so than the time a family has together and cutting into this time should be optional for families, not some mandatory additional learning time. If the teachers cant do it in 170 days, they cant do it in 180.

2/13/2015 11:18 AM

Could this day be a half day for those who might want to go to services? Many area schools have a half day on Good Friday.

2/13/2015 11:14 AM

This should not even be a school holiday. You should get rid of it as well as the holidays in Sept as voted by the parents in the last survey!!!!

2/13/2015 11:05 AM

Would prefer any days other than Spring Break or end of year ... we already have tickets bought for a vacation and would be pulling kids out of school and they would still miss the day. The end of the year is nothing more than locker clearing and parties so not sure what educational profit the kids would get out of an extended school year.

2/13/2015 11:03 AM

The week of winter break

2/13/2015 11:00 AM

I do not agree with having school on GOOD FRIDAY, there are other days we can make up days through the rest of the year. Good Friday should be an absolute last resort.

2/13/2015 10:59 AM

I don't think we need Good Friday off anyway!!!

2/13/2015 10:52 AM

Please DO NOT infringe on April vacation.

2/13/2015 10:51 AM

It's not a holiday. If people choose to be out, so be it.

2/13/2015 10:46 AM

wednesday afternoons!

2/13/2015 10:35 AM

I am traveling during April break and would miss school on any days we are here

2/13/2015 10:34 AM

Too many children and teachers have plans to go away over April vacation and were not anticipating so many snow days.

2/13/2015 10:32 AM

I observe Good Friday June 25th would be a better choice for me.

2/13/2015 10:30 AM

Is going to full days on Wednesdays an option? If not, I vote for Good Friday.

2/13/2015 10:29 AM

of note, LS has decided to make that particular wednesday a full day and make good friday a half day if this occurs.

2/13/2015 10:27 AM

I would say Good Friday if dismissal could be at 12:35 and I would be able to attend religious services without using a personal day.

2/13/2015 10:27 AM

Perhaps it could be an early release day to accommodate those of us who attend afternoon services?

2/13/2015 10:24 AM

When is good Friday?

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2/13/2015 10:22 AM

My son will be out of the country during April vacation.

2/13/2015 10:21 AM

It should be a half day so that Christians may attend afternoon services.

2/13/2015 10:17 AM

I know that we gave some thought as a district to eliminate all religious holidays from the school calendar and it was ultimately decided to keep them, however, I think we should reconsider these days and hold school with altered homework expectations for families.

2/13/2015 10:17 AM

I travel for Easter when at all possible to celebrate this religious holiday with my family.

2/13/2015 10:16 AM

While some observe this as a religious holiday, most attend mass for only part of the day and others who are on deck could cover for them.

2/13/2015 10:14 AM

### Question #3 Comments

**If we have TWO additional snow days that must be made up, my preference for adding school days is (choose up to two):**

Use Wednesday afternoons.

2/25/2015 10:17 PM

Same answer as #1

2/21/2015 9:35 PM

Or Wednesday afternoons

2/18/2015 1:33 PM

Maybe you could offer faculty to do their additional day on a Saturday or vacation day of there choice.

2/17/2015 11:33 AM

Neither, make Wednesdays full days so that you will not have to use the children and our holliday time.

2/17/2015 9:11 AM

Have the kids come full days on Wednesdays for the month of March.

2/15/2015 10:06 AM

Previous places have been able to make up days by adding 10-20 minutes to each school day. Schools here start much later in the morning than anywhere else we have lived. Or why not have students go for a full day on Wednesdays....that would be best solution.

2/14/2015 12:50 PM

Extend school on a couple of Wednesdays

2/14/2015 8:25 AM

Extend Wedneday hours

2/14/2015 1:32 AM

Some children visit parents out of town during the breaks... can't you make them up by making wednesdays full days instead of half days?

2/13/2015 10:24 PM

Full day on Wednesday

2/13/2015 8:37 PM

Adding a few extra minutes to each day until the number of minutes needed can be reached.

2/13/2015 7:25 PM

Extend 2 or 3 Wednesdays to equal one school day.

2/13/2015 5:31 PM

Could we possible have a shortened Saturday (say 9am-2pm) by eliminating Music, gym, and Art on that day?

2/13/2015 5:22 PM

Again, we already have April vacation plans. I think it is too close in time to take days away from April vacation.

2/13/2015 3:58 PM

I know other districts have done half-days on Saturdays. Would this be a possibility?

2/13/2015 3:45 PM

Can we extend Wednesdays for full days and make up the hours that way instead?

2/13/2015 3:33 PM

Away for Mon/Tues April Vacation week.

2/13/2015 3:32 PM

Keep the April Vacation.

2/13/2015 2:07 PM

Make Wednesday a full day until time is made up.

2/13/2015 2:03 PM

Good Friday is also the first night of Passover which requires a lot of religious observation. I would prefer going until June 26th over April vacation or on a Saturday. I booked all my appointments over vacation and on Saturdays so I would not need to miss work. Some of those appointments need to be booked months in advance and would not be able to be rescheduled for a day that doesn't involve missing work. I'm assuming we will also be missing many students if we use those times. Would we be able to have full day school on Wednesdays to make up the hours? This would be the ideal situation if needed.

2/13/2015 1:54 PM

People have vacations planned and money on some.

2/13/2015 1:45 PM

I'd rather have school all of April vacation and get out earlier in June.

2/13/2015 1:37 PM

Could it be the Wednesday of School vacation since it is a 1/2 day?

2/13/2015 1:36 PM

Extend Wednesdays to full days to make up for hours needed.

2/13/2015 1:29 PM

Hopefully instead of having a full snow day for future days, if at all possible, we could delay school opening by a 2-3 hour delay.

2/13/2015 1:18 PM

There is an 8th grade Girl Scout trip to Puerto Rico planned for June 25-July 1. We have non-refundable tickets and there are 12 girls from the 8th grade class and 1 Lincoln School teacher who are planning on going on this trip.

2/13/2015 12:56 PM

Use Wednesday afternoons

2/13/2015 12:53 PM

I'd be ok with having a few full days on Wednesdays to make up the days if that's doable.

2/13/2015 12:45 PM

I wouldn't do April vacation since people have already made plans in most cases.

2/13/2015 12:28 PM

See answer to question #2

2/13/2015 12:25 PM

Again, let's take a look at Wednesday which is a 1/2 day. Shift the teaching syllabus to the right, keep the specials on the days they are scheduled and shift all academic teaching.

2/13/2015 12:16 PM

I have a commitment for Monday April 20th, and as it's the day of the marathon, I would hope to have school Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday of April break.

2/13/2015 11:58 AM

We should definitely not hold an additional school day on April vacation

2/13/2015 11:57 AM

Consider extending the day on a couple of Wednesdays

2/13/2015 11:57 AM

See above.

2/13/2015 11:56 AM

If two, then start with April Vacation. I CANNOT emphasize enough that you should NOT extend the school year beyond June 24th!

2/13/2015 11:39 AM

I support taking a day or two from the end (Thursday/Friday) April Vacation to support the required school days. The students, families and teachers would have one long weekend at the beginning of the break which I feel is reasonable under the circumstances.

2/13/2015 11:25 AM

Should have considered February break first. Enough February days off already.

2/13/2015 11:23 AM

Stay late a half hour each day to make up the day.

2/13/2015 11:19 AM

There are options beyond the april vacation. That needs to be the last resort as many people have spent money on trips that they will loose. Please consider relooking at next years schedule to remove all these days off

2/13/2015 11:13 AM

Winter break!

2/13/2015 11:00 AM

Extend 2-3 Wednesdays for time on learning = 1 additional full day. This would result in better learning gains than in days in June, Saturday, or April vacation.

2/13/2015 10:52 AM

Again, Please DO NOT infringe on April vacation.

2/13/2015 10:51 AM

Wednesday afternoons-turn into full day Wednesdays with students

2/13/2015 10:50 AM

use Good Friday first, then I am open to whichever other days you need after that

2/13/2015 10:47 AM

Extend the day or take away teacher work days on Wednesday.

2/13/2015 10:47 AM

Extend the school days and/or make 1/2 day Wednesdays full days.

2/13/2015 10:44 AM

get rid of 1/2 day wednesdays for several wednesdays. if that wont work for some reason than i would say pick a saturday.

2/13/2015 10:43 AM

I am traveling during April break and would miss school on any days we are here

2/13/2015 10:34 AM

Too many children and teachers have plans to go away over April vacation and were not anticipating so many snow days.

2/13/2015 10:32 AM

Any of these combinations are acceptable solutions with enough advanced notice.

2/13/2015 10:29 AM

evacuation day? or bunker hill day? full days wednesdays.

2/13/2015 10:29 AM

Same reason as above for Good Friday.

2/13/2015 10:27 AM

I usually work the summer program which is scheduled to start on Monday, June 29. How would that work for those of us that need to be doing 2 jobs that day?

2/13/2015 10:24 AM

2d day = May 25th OR Go full days on Wednesdays until the time is made up.

2/13/2015 10:23 AM

Honestly I don't think any additional learning will happen very end of year if that is the objective.

2/13/2015 10:22 AM

Again, if Good Friday is used it should be a half day.

2/13/2015 10:17 AM

## Question #4 Comments

**If we have THREE OR MORE additional snow days that must be made up, my preference for adding school days is (choose as many as needed, and provide explanation, as needed, in comment box):**

Use Good Friday first. Then use April vacation days starting with Monday so that there is potential for some days off is still tied to a weekend (the second weekend). If total is more than 6 days to make up, prefer Saturday over adding to end of school year.

2/26/2015 8:10 AM

Use WEDNESDAY afternoons.

2/25/2015 10:17 PM

If April Vacation is used, I would recommend using the first 3 days of that week (Monday to Wednesday). Would it be a possibility to make up the lost time by students attending a full day of school on a few Wednesdays?

2/25/2015 9:07 PM

I would hope that teachers would be able to finish school at the end of a week, not have to come back for an additional Monday, perhaps they could come in for the Saturday the 27th and be done??

2/23/2015 2:25 PM

Same answer as #1

2/21/2015 9:35 PM

Having school on April vacation would drastically impact student availability for learning, as well as teacher availability for teaching. March is a long month without any days off, and teachers and students alike look forward (and need) those April days.

2/17/2015 7:34 PM

Although not ideal, I would not be able to work during vacations or on Saturdays. Finding childcare for my kids would be very difficult, so it would end up being a wasted day for my students with a substitute (not sure how many would come to school any way).

2/17/2015 11:33 AM

Neither; make Wednesdays full days so that you will not have to use the children and our holiday time.

2/17/2015 9:11 AM

That still leaves June 29 with faculty working June 30

2/16/2015 1:54 PM

Anything to keep the end of year date stable is preferred.

2/16/2015 11:24 AM

Please try to avoid Monday, April 20th as this is the date of the Boston Marathon. The road blocks start the weekend leading into that date and continue through Monday.

2/16/2015 9:06 AM

It seems more reasonable to add the snow days after the projected last day of school.

2/16/2015 9:04 AM

My child dances competitively on weekends and her absence will be detrimental to her dance team if Saturdays are used to make up any more snow days. In addition, the money outlay for competitions has already occurred. I will not be reimbursed if we cancel out of a competition.

2/16/2015 3:40 AM

What about making Wednesdays full days to make up some time too?

2/15/2015 8:35 PM



Many people have plans in place for April vacation that include plane tickets and hotels. It would not be fair to those faculty and staff members who already have plans with their families. Saturday's would be less disruptive.

2/15/2015 5:48 PM

Saturdays would require a lot of students to miss extracurricular activities, like sports, that have already been paid for by parents.

2/15/2015 2:47 PM

If 4 snow days are required then April vacation should be used.

2/14/2015 5:04 PM

I have vacation plans April vacation for the first time in many years. I would come to school any other time instead of cancelling my vacation and losing thousands of dollars.

2/14/2015 3:49 PM

See above comment.

2/14/2015 12:50 PM

I'm happy to defer to the majority, as I have no major vacation plans.

2/14/2015 8:31 AM

Extend school on a couple of Wednesdays

2/14/2015 8:25 AM

I also think Saturday is a good idea (better than taking vacation away from parents, children and faculty)

2/14/2015 8:16 AM

Continue into June

2/14/2015 7:13 AM

Strong preference not to interfere with April vacation

2/14/2015 2:04 AM

Extend Wednesday hours

2/14/2015 1:32 AM

One day of April vacation only

2/13/2015 11:34 PM

Some children visit parents out of town during the breaks... can't you make them up by making Wednesdays full days instead of half days?

2/13/2015 10:24 PM

First choice: June 25th Second choice: Good Friday Third Choice: June 26th Saturday as a last choice. Is it possible to have some full days on Wednesdays to make up some of the time?

2/13/2015 9:10 PM

Full day on Wednesday

2/13/2015 8:37 PM

We would ask that the school take into consideration families that have already planned for and paid for vacations during the April vacation.

2/13/2015 7:45 PM

Adding a few extra minutes to each day until the number of minutes needed can be reached.

2/13/2015 7:25 PM

Good Friday plus 2 days of April Vacation week

2/13/2015 6:24 PM

Extend 2 or 3 Wednesdays to equal one school day.

2/13/2015 5:31 PM

Heading into the end of June means that the children and staff will have to deal with poor air quality and possibly intense heat in the building from lack of A/C.

2/13/2015 5:22 PM

We have non-refundable travel plans booked for April break.

2/13/2015 4:43 PM

Just use one day of the April vacation instead of two.

2/13/2015 4:37 PM

Many people in the school community have already planned and in many cases booked vacations over the April break and I think that this would be the worst choice.

2/13/2015 4:23 PM

Add extra 30 minutes to the end of every school day.

2/13/2015 4:21 PM

12:00 dismissal on Good Friday as LS has suggested and use a wednesday full day.

2/13/2015 4:12 PM

Sports on Saturdays during the spring Plans for April vacation

2/13/2015 4:05 PM

or extending several Wednesdays by several hours, shifting after school activities a few hours as well

2/13/2015 4:02 PM

June 29th See comments above

2/13/2015 3:58 PM

A couple of days during April vacation, but not the entire week.

2/13/2015 3:44 PM

Can we make Wednesdays full days and make up the hours that way?

2/13/2015 3:33 PM

Away for Mon/Tues April Vacation week.

2/13/2015 3:32 PM

Two Saturdays, if needed, plus Good Friday. We already go to late in June when weather can be hot.

2/13/2015 2:44 PM

If more than three (which seems improbable but not impossible given these last weeks) I'd imagine a day or two during April vacation would make sense, but it'd be tough for those who have already booked travel plans. If in future years we started the school calendar two to three days earlier in the fall, that could help to create a buffer for situations like this. Or perhaps combining the February and April breaks into one break would help, but I imagine that's a much bigger discussion! Many thanks for soliciting our input and for your thoughtful approach!

2/13/2015 2:10 PM

Please don't take away spring break!! Least favorite choice.

2/13/2015 2:09 PM

I would start with Wednesdays as full days for as long needed to make it up and then go into vacations as folks have already made plans/booked tickets and they are already going to late in the year anyway.

2/13/2015 2:03 PM

Wednesday afternoons (teacher planning), and/or extended school days.

2/13/2015 1:58 PM

April vacation would be my last choice but would like that before we extend the school year too much. Saturday could be an option, not against one Saturday during the cold winter to save a nice day in spring. Thank you for this,

2/13/2015 1:57 PM

In my opinion the students are already getting out at the end of June so why extend it even more. Additional snow days need to be made up in April.

2/13/2015 1:55 PM

Adding an extra day on the end of the year makes the most sense since it doesn't even involve going into another week and we would still get out before July. Good Friday is also the first night of Passover which requires a lot of religious observation. I would prefer going until June 26th over April vacation or on a Saturday. I booked all my appointments over vacation and on Saturdays so I would not need to miss work. Some of those appointments need to be booked months in advance and would not be able to be rescheduled for a day that doesn't involve missing work. I'm assuming we will also be missing many students if we use those times. Having a full day school on Wednesdays to make up the hours would be the ideal situation if needed.

2/13/2015 1:54 PM

Many families have already made plans or purchased tickets for April vacation not anticipating such a bad winter. Taking that break away can or could be a financial burden.

2/13/2015 1:52 PM

I would prefer to not extend the school year past June 24th. I am concerned that the facilities cannot keep the classrooms cool enough during the summer heat. I do not want to put the children in these conditions longer than necessary.

2/13/2015 1:39 PM

One of my children would lose a week of school or however many days if makeup days are done during the April Vacation.

2/13/2015 1:39 PM

Please don't let this happen! 3 would be cruel and usual punishment

2/13/2015 1:36 PM

Could we extend the school day to make up the time?

2/13/2015 1:36 PM

We already have a trip planned for April vacation. This means my two children would miss the entire week of school if April vacation is cancelled. This seems unfair to my kids.

2/13/2015 1:35 PM

Extend Wednesdays to full days to make up for hours needed.

2/13/2015 1:29 PM

Hopefully instead of having a full snow day for future days, if at all possible, we could delay school opening by a 2-3 hour delay.

2/13/2015 1:18 PM

either April vacation days or a Saturday or a combination as needed

2/13/2015 1:04 PM

Wednesday afternoon

2/13/2015 12:53 PM

Wednesday afternoons

2/13/2015 12:34 PM

The 8th grade Girl Scouts, 11 of which go to the Lincoln School, have a service trip to Puerto Rico planned departing June 25, so we really wouldn't be able to attend school after June 24.

Arrangements are already made with multiple organizations in Puerto Rico. Thanks!!

2/13/2015 12:31 PM

We have already made travel plans for both Good Friday and the April vacation.

2/13/2015 12:29 PM

ALSO -- for future planning purposes, I would like the School District and School Committee to review the academic calendar again next year since the snow day situation seems to have held true for the past few years. I would rec'd omitting February recess, making it a four-day weekend instead and then we have 3 extra school days already built into the calendar. In addition, I would not take Good Friday off. I believe that 2/3rds of those who responded to the last survey wanted to omit Good Friday

and either Yom Kippur or Rosh Hashanah as school holidays and it seems like it's a good time to revisit the issue. I know that budgets were the deciding factor before, but I think that given recent history it makes sense to revisit.

2/13/2015 12:28 PM

See answer to question #2

2/13/2015 12:25 PM

Add additional time in our day to make up the extra day.

2/13/2015 12:21 PM

Here is an alternative thought about making up the time. If 15 minutes were added to each school day, that would equal 1 hour 15 min. extra a week. Over 5 full school weeks, that would add up to 6 hours 15 minutes. This is nearly equivalent to the 6 hours 20 minutes of class time on a regular school day. (The school day is 6 hours 50 minutes minus 30 minutes for lunch.) We have about 18 weeks remaining in the year. If 15 minutes were added each day, there is the potential to make up 3 full days over the course of 15 weeks. Adding time would naturally require an adjustment in the schedule. Upper grades on a 7 period schedule could add 2 minutes to each period. An adjustment of lunch by a few minutes would probably also be required.

2/13/2015 12:16 PM

Make Wednesday a full day.

2/13/2015 12:16 PM

Thank you for giving us a heads up to plan accordingly with breaks/holidays. We will support your decision on our children's education. Jennifer Kontos

2/13/2015 12:07 PM

If June 26th, then I would like to have staff work on Saturday, June 27th, instead of Mon, June 29th.

2/13/2015 12:05 PM

make a few half day wednesdays into full days. so use 2 half wednesdays to equal one day. saturdays are not good for students who go to language schools on saturdays

2/13/2015 12:03 PM

again, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday

2/13/2015 11:58 AM

April vacation plans have already been made and involve air tickets, etc. I would be open to a Saturday if the other options on Good Friday and June 25/26 don't work. Thank you, Erica Gonella-Aslam

2/13/2015 11:57 AM

We should definitely not hold an additional school day on April vacation. The school superintendent shouldn't be so quick to close the schools. It seems like overkill.

2/13/2015 11:57 AM

Possible Saturdays: March 21, 28 and/or May 2 (around the weeks of mcas) Consider extending the day on a couple of Wednesdays In the future the school year should include 7 snow days (this should include the thursday & Friday of the last week of school) and/or consider eliminating Columbus day Martin Luther King day, AND professional day (that can possibly be on a Saturday)

2/13/2015 11:57 AM

See above.

2/13/2015 11:56 AM

Later in June will affect the summer schedule-please try to avoid this.

2/13/2015 11:50 AM

As we move to the 1:1 system across the district, might we also begin to consider utilizing that technology as a means of "having school" virtually in limited circumstances. Burlington is piloting this (<http://burlington.wickedlocal.com/article/20150104/News/150108948>) as it's a 1:1 district. While

getting days off now and making them later seems a reasonable trade off, I know full well, having taught in a charter school that went to June 30th regardless, how absurdly hot and uncomfortable that month becomes. Given that May-June becomes an intensive time period for standardized testing as well, the burnout on teachers and students alike makes continuing rigorous curriculum a real challenge the later we go into June. I would much rather begin to see us virtually host classes or put measures in place ahead of time that allow us to continue to engage our students academically on a snow day, so as to alleviate these decisions. For teachers, we already have limited vacation parameters (often to the delightful profits of airlines, resorts, etc). As such, we must plan those trips far in advance to assure any sort of reasonable cost. To start to take those away from people because of mother nature seems doubly penalizing in that they lose vacation and must return to hot, humid classrooms when few people really want to be there to learn.

2/13/2015 11:44 AM

June 25th as the 3rd day. Any days beyond that my children would not attend due to a planned April break vacation and regular Saturday extra-curricular classes

2/13/2015 11:40 AM

I CANNOT emphasize enough that you should NOT extend the school year beyond June 24th!

2/13/2015 11:39 AM

And June 25th

2/13/2015 11:33 AM

Add i extra hour of school each day for a week to make up a school day.

2/13/2015 11:28 AM

Maybe one or 2 Saturdays and extra days at the end of the school year

2/13/2015 11:26 AM

I support taking a day or two from the end (Thursday/Friday) April Vacation to support the required school days. I would supplement with the Staurdays as necessary. The students, families and teachers would have one long weekend at the beginning of the break which I feel is reasonable under the circumstances

2/13/2015 11:25 AM

I feel a few Saturday make-up days would be appropriate so that the school year could end on or before, June 26th.

2/13/2015 11:25 AM

The challenge with using April Vacation (in my opinion) would be that parents who plan "away" vacations will take their kids regardless...while those who are home are likely to attend a pretty empty school. I'll support anything you propose Becky...I'm just giving you my comments :-)!

2/13/2015 11:24 AM

Reducing summer not acceptable when February break was an option in my opinion.

2/13/2015 11:23 AM

Please extend the school day 10-15 minutes if needed to make up the time.

2/13/2015 11:20 AM

See above

2/13/2015 11:19 AM

June 25th

2/13/2015 11:19 AM

Saturdays are part of the Jewish sabbath and some Jews may feel imposed upon. People should never plan to go on vacation the day school is supposed to be over. But many people may already have plane tickets for April.

2/13/2015 11:18 AM

Good Friday, June 25, plus 1 day of April vacation. Thank you - I realize this is a difficult decision process.

2/13/2015 11:14 AM

Remove Good Friday or start the earlier next year please to avoid this mess.

2/13/2015 11:13 AM

Order of preference 1) Good Friday 2) June 26 3) April vacation (most inconvenient)

2/13/2015 11:12 AM

For the sake of educational continuity I would prefer April Vacation.

2/13/2015 11:11 AM

Most kids camps start by June 26th and I imagine many people are going away for April vacation week, so it seems like many kids will miss no matter what you choose.

2/13/2015 11:06 AM

For three or more days - we should do Good Friday, June 25, June 26 and so on and so forth until we get to July 1. It is a shame that teachers would have to work later but they also enjoyed the snow days off while the working parents had to suffer on those days with their kids home. April Vacations and Saturdays to working parents are sacred and really should not be taken away. It is bad enough that we have to start school next year BEFORE labor day. I don't recall receiving a vote on that one and in fact i very much recall voting against it last for this school year. I hope that you take our parent's opinions into consideration this time. Thank you for taking the time to solicit the responses of individuals for this important decision that impacts very much the daily lives of families.

2/13/2015 11:06 AM

Get rid of the religious holidays in next years calendar!!!! I know it is published but it should be changed. There is no reason to have days off in Sept!!!! You can also get rid of Feb vacation as most places have done. School will end earlier and there will be more options to make up days at the end if needed.

2/13/2015 11:05 AM

If april vacation days are needed faculty who have vacation plans should be allowed to take days. Given the price of airlines and hotels during these breaks are incredibly high, I often book travel plans well in advance to ensure I am able to visit family who I see only twice a year affordable. This winter pattern is very rare and therefore special consideration should be given to staff members. Perhaps apply for a waiver from the state given this insane winter??

2/13/2015 11:02 AM

I need to provide childcare on Holidays.

2/13/2015 11:01 AM

The week of winter break!

2/13/2015 11:00 AM

We have family plans for April vacation that are non refundable. Unfortunately, we would have to have the kids out of school if the April vacation is used for making up for missed days.

2/13/2015 10:58 AM

Good Friday, June 25th, one day from April vacation

2/13/2015 10:57 AM

I would not advocate a Saturday start at 8 AM. Perhaps an 8:30 or 9:00 AM start. Also, may want to consider a half-day on Saturday, so that we can make up for 1 lost snow day with 2 half-day Saturdays.

2/13/2015 10:56 AM

My issue with Saturdays is that many children have other commitments with activities and supplementary classes/enrichment

2/13/2015 10:56 AM

You have a difficult decision with all of this. Go easy.

2/13/2015 10:53 AM

See above...Use Wednesday afternoons.

2/13/2015 10:52 AM

Doesn't the "Snow Emergency" for state NOT count as a snow day???

2/13/2015 10:52 AM

April vacation use should still try to provide families with a 3 or 4 day weekend. Some families have already purchased vacation tickets/reservations, etc. For the future, I recommend the district pursue the option of utilizing a "blizzard bag" system similar to the plans used in NH schools, utilizing technology and take home materials to allow students to work from home on snow days.

2/13/2015 10:51 AM

My family has already booked a vacation for April break therefore I'd rather lose the holidays.

2/13/2015 10:50 AM

Wednesday afternoons turn into full days with students for additional time on learning-3 Wednesday afternoons=1 full day \*This will result in better learning gains than in June when it is hot and students move or take vacations

2/13/2015 10:50 AM

Just don't want to come back on June 29

2/13/2015 10:48 AM

any other

2/13/2015 10:47 AM

Extend the day or take away teacher work days on Wednesday.

2/13/2015 10:47 AM

This is a tough situation. People who have made plans to go away for April vacation will probably still go. On the other hand, having school in June isn't the same as having it in April. People are already checked out.

2/13/2015 10:46 AM

Would lengthening the school day for a certain number of days be a possibility to make up hours lost during snow days?

2/13/2015 10:45 AM

preference is for only 1-2 days during April vacation week - kids need a break.

2/13/2015 10:45 AM

Extend the school days and/or make 1/2 day Wednesdays full days.

2/13/2015 10:44 AM

i already have april vacation booked for my child as well as summer plan starts june 22nd. so, i would say in order of preference to get rid of 1/2 days on Wednesday as a first choice. second choice would be a few Saturdays and/or get rid of a Jewish holiday if there is one scheduled to miss.

2/13/2015 10:43 AM

Hoped to spend April Vacation on a family break

2/13/2015 10:41 AM

Could we consider the use of Blizzard Bags? These are packets of work that are done at home that would count towards a day of school? 80% of students must complete the bags in order for the bags to count as a full day of school. Burlington and Wayland are piloting this approach this year.

2/13/2015 10:39 AM

Our son will miss school rather than take any April vacation days, and he has sports commitments in the summer, so he simply won't be there for various options.

2/13/2015 10:37 AM

I have plans already in place for April vacation.

2/13/2015 10:37 AM

I would choose: Good Friday, June 25th and 26th. I would agreed with Teachers working on 2/29. \* Saturday as an option should we need 4 additional days

2/13/2015 10:35 AM

June 29 students and faculty work on the 30th I am traveling during April break and would miss school on any days we are here

2/13/2015 10:34 AM

Too many children and teachers have plans to go away over April vacation and were not anticipating so many snow days.

2/13/2015 10:32 AM

Assuming June 25 would also be an option for the 2d snow day. Overall: First day - Good Friday Second day - June 25 Third day - April vacation

2/13/2015 10:31 AM

By selecting June 26th as one of the options above, am assuming that Thursday June 25th is connoted as one of the 3 days as well (i.e. Thursday June 25th is included in the choices for question #3 above, but not in this question #4). I would NOT advocate for the opting of April vacation days as school days on such short notice, as this choice penalizes families with irreversible travel/vacation plans already in place for April 2015, and feels unfair for those families who consulted the school calendar carefully in the beginning of the 2014-15 school year and planned ahead accordingly.

2/13/2015 10:29 AM

If more than 3 days, it makes sense to use a portion of April vacation and then get out of school on or before 6/24. The last few weeks of June are not a productive time to be in school and the kids and faculty are simply going through the motions. Use of April vacation would be a better alternative. Thanks for seeking input.

2/13/2015 10:29 AM

evacuation day, bunker hill day or full day Wednesdays.

2/13/2015 10:29 AM

My preference would be Good Friday, June 25, and June 26 for 3 snow days.

2/13/2015 10:27 AM

Same reason as above for Good Friday.

2/13/2015 10:27 AM

I would take away good Friday and then hold school two days during April vacation week.

2/13/2015 10:26 AM

June 25, June 26 and good friday

2/13/2015 10:25 AM

See above question regarding Monday, June 29.

2/13/2015 10:24 AM

2d day = May 25th AND/OR Go full days on Wednesdays until the time is made up. \*\*Additionally, do away with February break in the future. It is a waste of time and eats into summer break...which is traditional family travel time.

2/13/2015 10:23 AM

See comments above. If it is not important to Lincoln parents that kids make up beyond 5 missed days can we vote to override that requirement? Could Lincoln do a school wide "take home" module that entails a learning movie / book whatever, discussed as a family with some kind of follow-up (school wide exhibit/discussion or otherwise)????

2/13/2015 10:22 AM

June 29

2/13/2015 10:22 AM



I would much rather give up the April vacation than cut into summer and camp time, especially with the start date for next year being before Labor Day. Thanks for all of your work and patience in dealing with these unprecedented winter storms!

2/13/2015 10:22 AM

I think more information will be needed if we need to make up 3 additional snow days. I can imagine there are many faculty members as well as school families that already have scheduled plans during both April vacation and the end of June (29th and 30th). I think there would need to be a conversation about what will need to be done if staff members have plans that can no longer be changed during the April vacation if days are going to be made up at that time. The same goes for the end of June.

2/13/2015 10:21 AM

April vacation would not work.....we are moving this summer and this is the last time we can take vacation as a family before starting a new job (even though it is still with military) Summer vacations are not truly times military families get to vacation because typically we are moving.

2/13/2015 10:21 AM

June 25th

2/13/2015 10:19 AM

Our family has already purchased airline tickets to visit family during April vacation.

2/13/2015 10:19 AM

I have plans for the last week in June. If faculty members are allowed to use a personal day for the teacher last day, I would be open to June 26th as a last day.

2/13/2015 10:17 AM

Monday or Friday of April Vacation

2/13/2015 10:17 AM

My children are already missing the last day and a half of school as they start overnight camp on June 23rd so I would prefer to make up the days during April break

2/13/2015 10:17 AM

I think April Vacation is rough. I am not traveling, so I would be available, but I predict many families and staff members already have travel plans and so we'd have a bare bones attendance and not have the most productive time.

2/13/2015 10:16 AM

Park & Rec is planning on starting our camp on June 29. Anyway to avoid having school going into that week would be extremely helpful to us...thanks!!

2/13/2015 10:14 AM

We have booked a trip during April school vacation.

2/13/2015 10:14 AM