

Preliminary Results of Four-Day School Week Survey

Prepared for District School Board of Pasco County

In the following brief, Hanover Research reports on preliminary findings of the Pasco survey regarding a four-day school week.

Executive Summary

In this following report, Hanover Research compiles initial findings from a survey offered to the Pasco County school district and stakeholders. The survey gauged community opinions of a proposed four-day school week as a solution to address the district's budget deficit. Respondents expressed their levels of agreement with the proposal and offered concerns about the plan.

In a subsequent report, Hanover Research will provide District School Board of Pasco County with a complete written analysis of the responses, including an investigation of trends in responses by relationship with the district and overall opinion of the proposal.

The survey was developed by Hanover Research and accessed by Pasco County school district stakeholders through a link on the district's website. It was completed by 10,130 people.

Key Findings

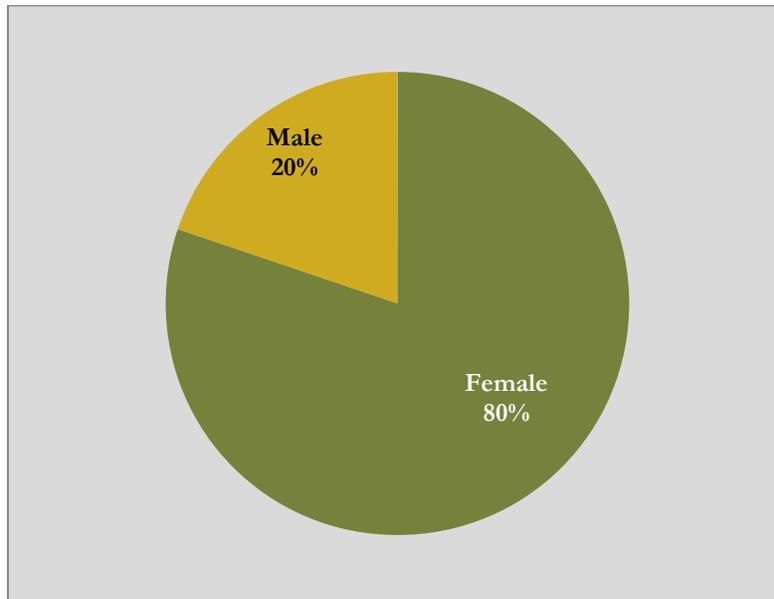
This preliminary analysis yielded the following *preliminary* key findings.

- ❖ The majority of respondents, 80 percent, were female. Half of all respondents were parents of current students, while a third were teachers.
- ❖ The majority (over 60 percent) of respondents had at least two adults working full-time. Fewer than 3 percent had no working adults in the household.
- ❖ Almost all respondents **(95 percent) felt at least somewhat aware of the pros and cons of a four-day school week**, while 97 percent were at least somewhat aware of the district's budget deficit. **Nearly two-thirds of respondents reported being *very aware* of the deficit.**
- ❖ **Respondents with strong feelings about the proposed modified school week were evenly split, with 27 percent of respondents strongly in favor and 27 percent strongly opposed.** A higher portion of respondents were in favor (18 percent) versus opposed (10 percent).
- ❖ Respondents believed two factors most supported the cuts. Over 4,000 respondents agreed the proposal would save jobs and eliminate the need for other cuts. Slightly fewer believed the proposal would be a good cost saving measure in the face of the large budget deficit.

- ❖ Approximately 3,900 respondents worried the four-day school week would put pressure on parents to find supervision for their children on non-school days.
- ❖ Respondents, on average, slightly agreed that **the four-day week would negatively affect the quality of their child's academic experience** (3.28/5.00).
- ❖ Over 2,000 respondents believed the district should enforce aggressive energy conservation measures and enforce a two mile bus transportation limit. Relatively few respondents believed reducing employee benefits or salaries or cutting academic programs would be viable options to address the budget cuts.
- ❖ Approximately a third of respondents (35%) would consider moving to a different school if the district adopted the proposed four-day school week.
- ❖ Over a fifth of respondents knew someone whose children were enrolled at a district that had adopted the shortened week. Over half of respondents (57 percent) had the impression that these acquaintances were at least satisfied with the modified schedule. Over a third, 37 percent, believed their acquaintances were dissatisfied with the change.
- ❖ Over half of respondents (53 percent) preferred having Friday off, while under a fifth (17 percent) preferred Mondays off; about a quarter of respondents (24 percent) did not have a preference.
- ❖ **The majority (78 percent) of respondents would attend a conveniently scheduled meeting about the proposal. Respondents preferred Monday through Thursday evening meeting times** (over 4,000 responses each). Over 4,200 would be available Saturday, though on this day respondents were divided as to the best time of day (morning, midday, or evening).

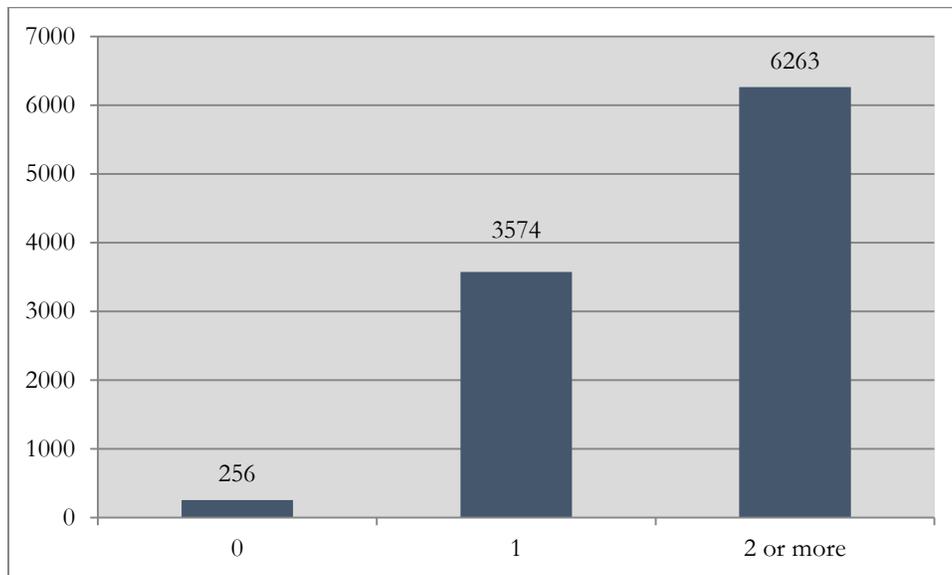
Survey Responses

Figure 1: Gender of Respondents



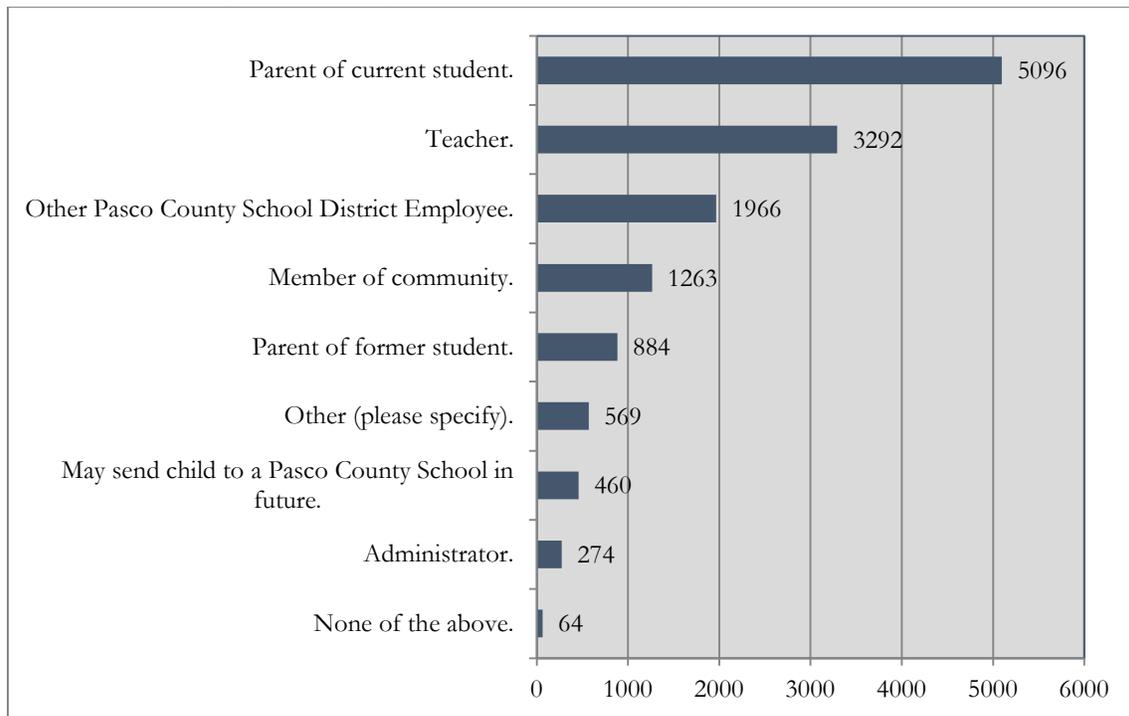
*n=10,078

Figure 2: Adults in Household Working Full-time



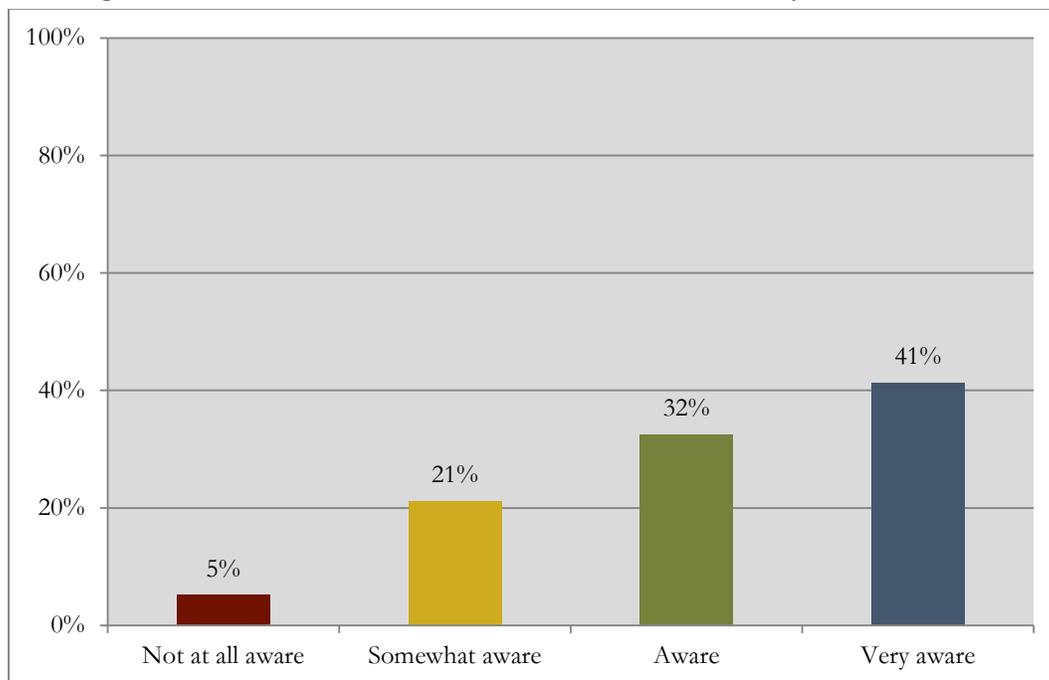
*n=10,093

Figure 3: Respondent Relationship to School District



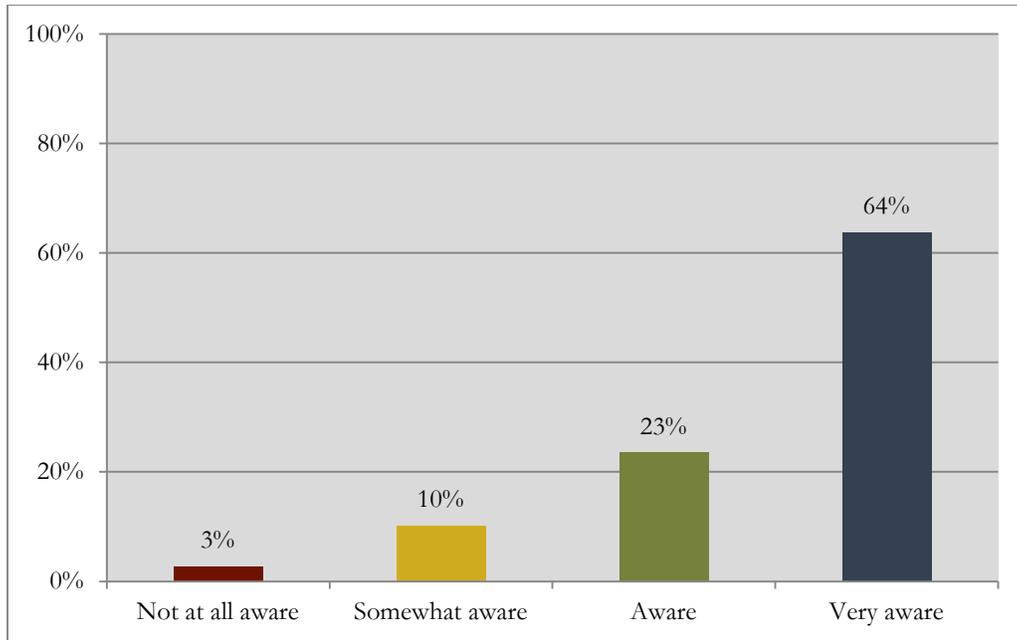
*n=10,087. Respondents selected all that applied.

Figure 4: Awareness of Pros and Cons of Four-Day School Week



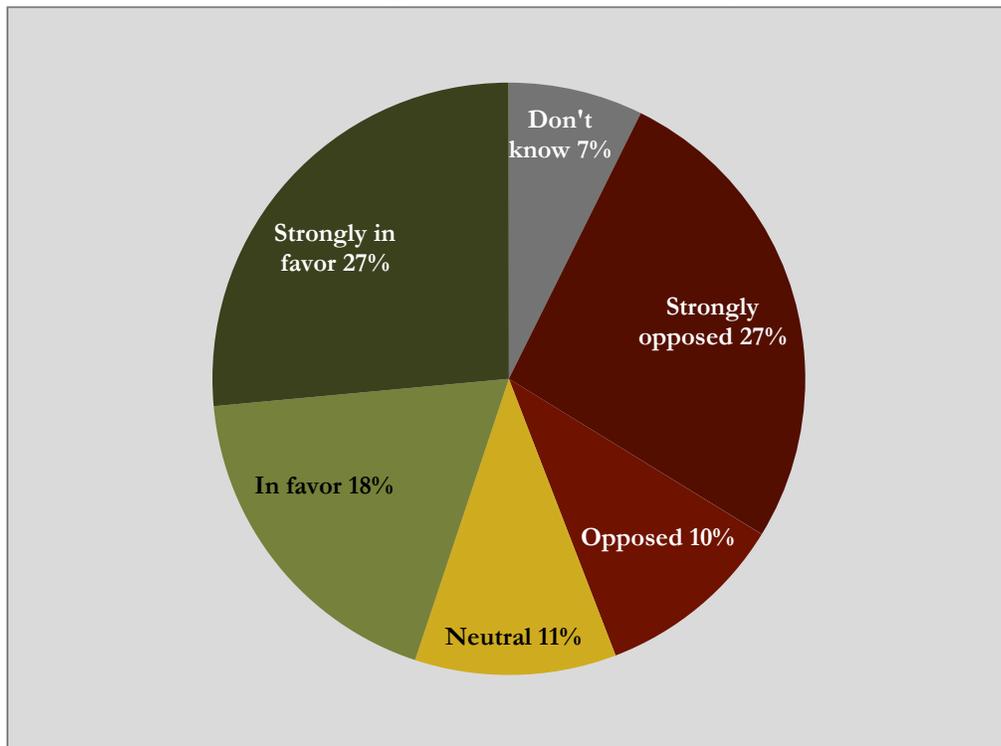
*n=10,091

Figure 5: Awareness of District’s Budget Deficit



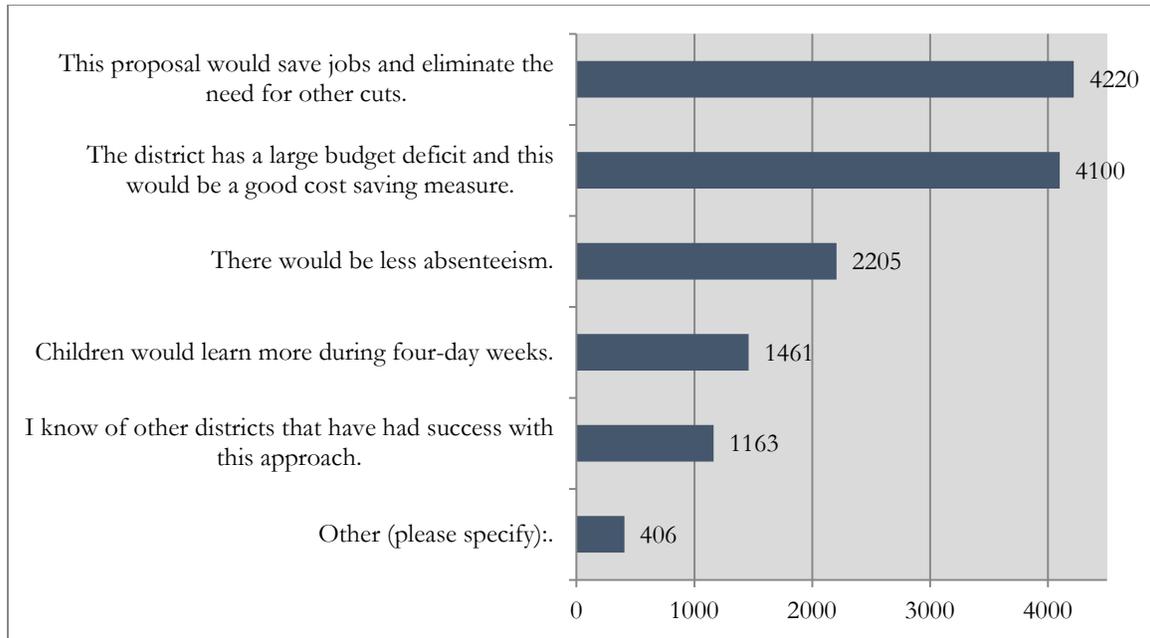
*n=10,090

Figure 6: Describe Your Feelings towards the Four Day School Week Proposal



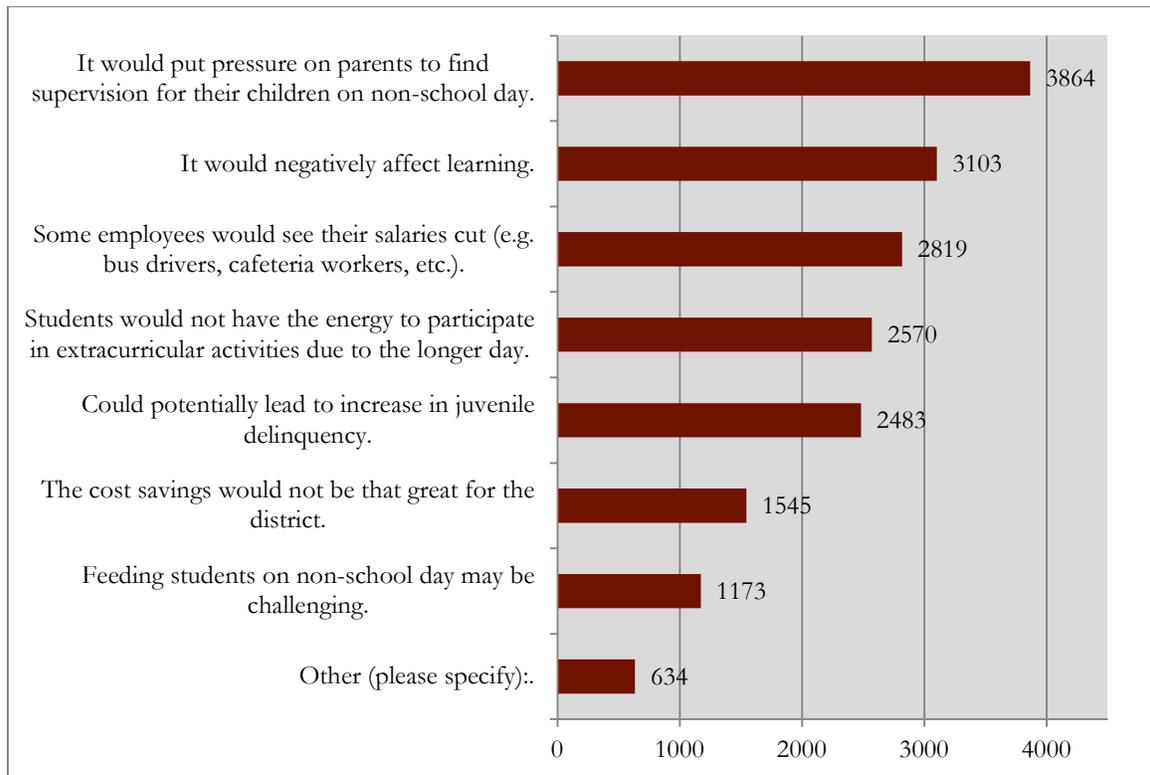
*n = 10,086

Figure 7: Factors Supporting a Four-Day Week



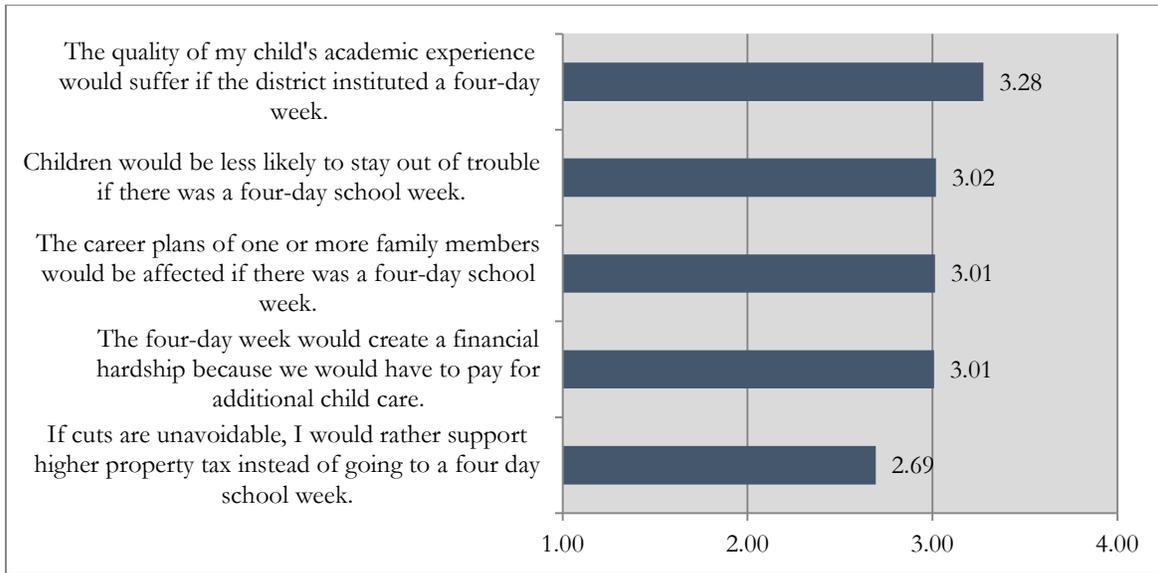
*n=5,554. Respondents selected all that applied.

Figure 8: Concerns about Four-Day Week



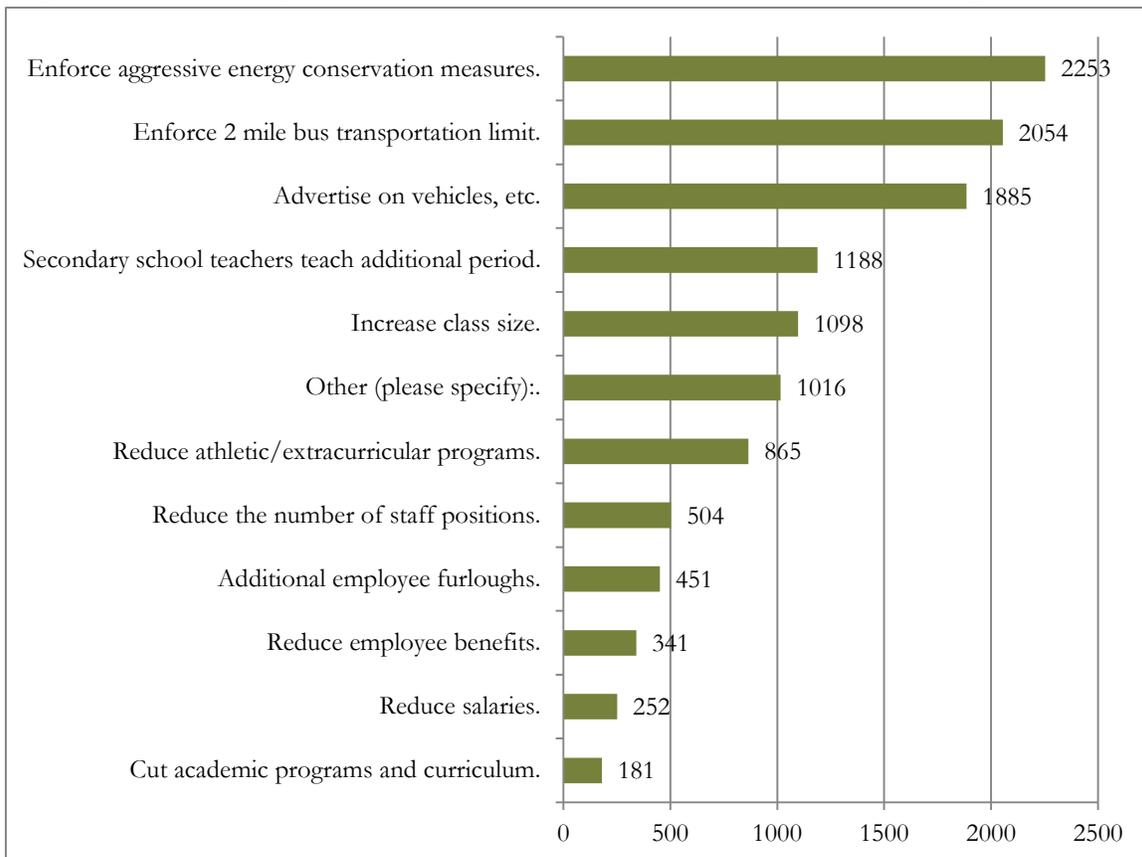
*n=4,774. Respondents selected all that applied.

Figure 9: Average Agreement with Statements about Four-Day Week



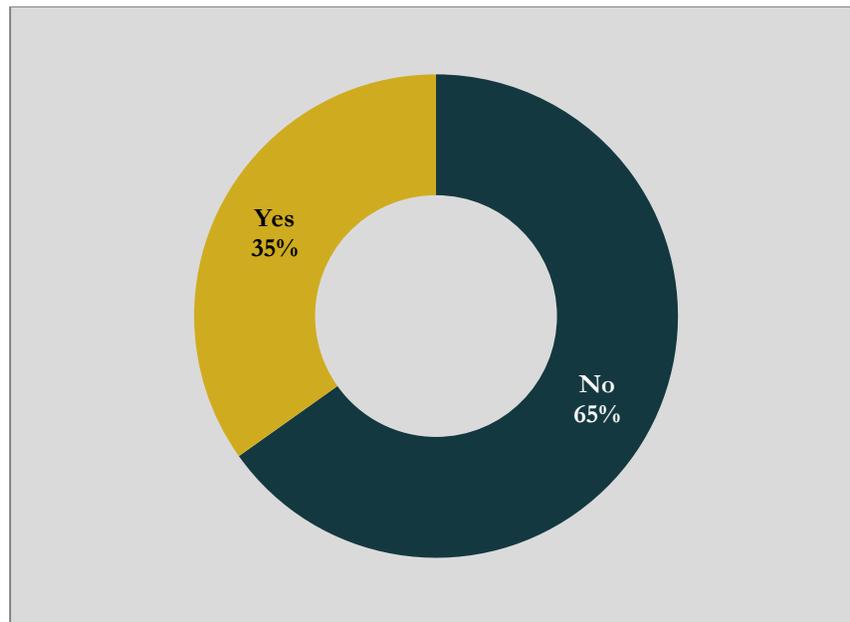
*n=5,024-5,042

Figure 10: Other Options District Should Consider to Reduce Budget Deficit



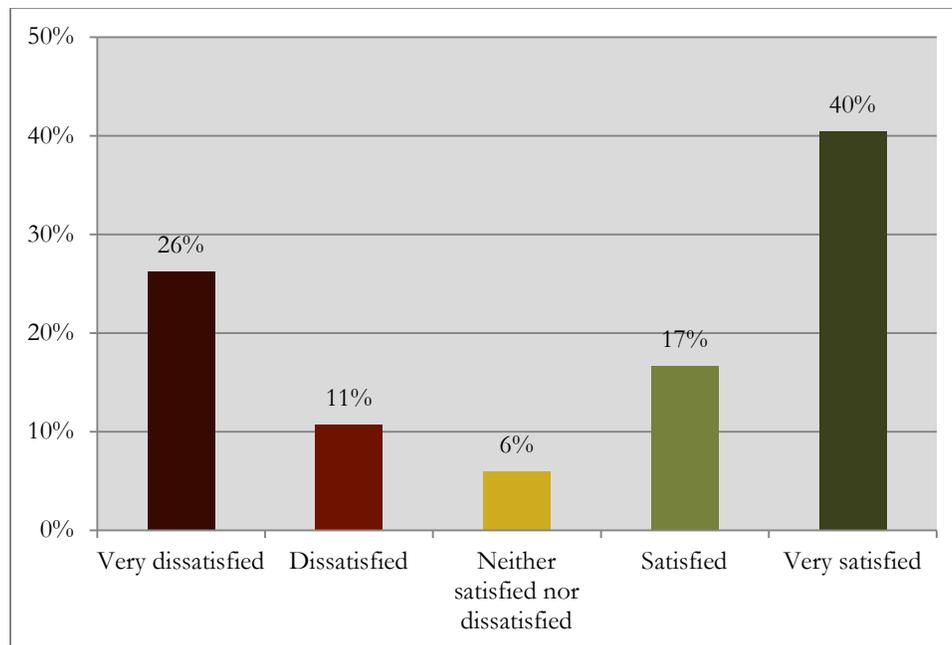
*n=3,612

Figure 11: Would Consider Moving to Different School if Four Day Week Adopted



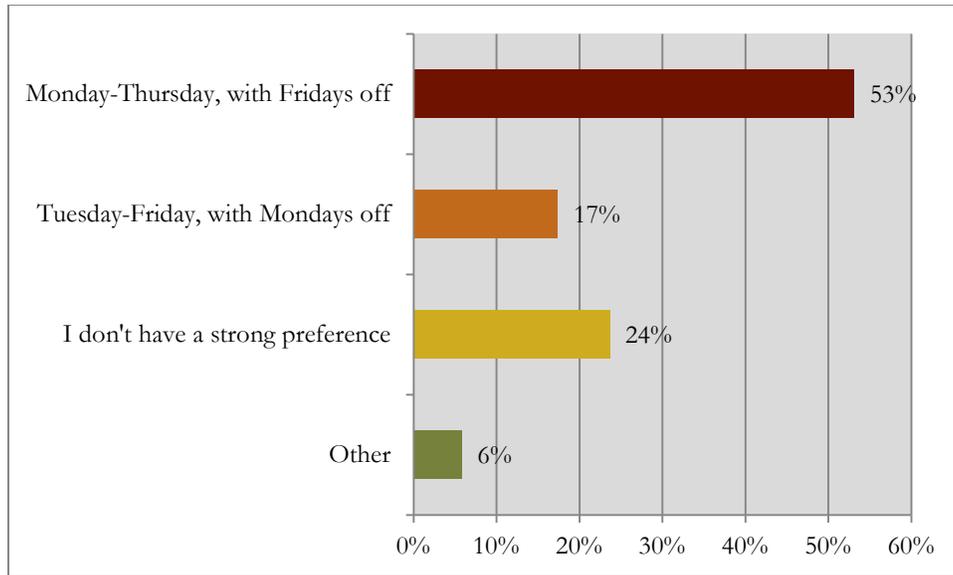
*n=5,345

Figure 12: How Satisfied are Acquaintances with Four-Day Week Implemented at Other District



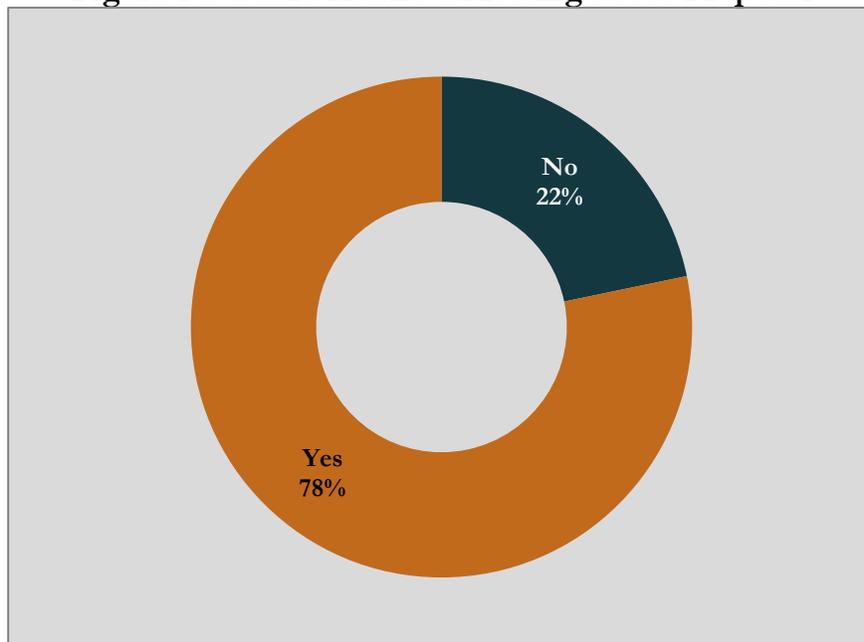
*n=2,086. 2,825 Don't Know; 4,861 Not Applicable

Figure 13: Preferred Four Day School Week Schedule



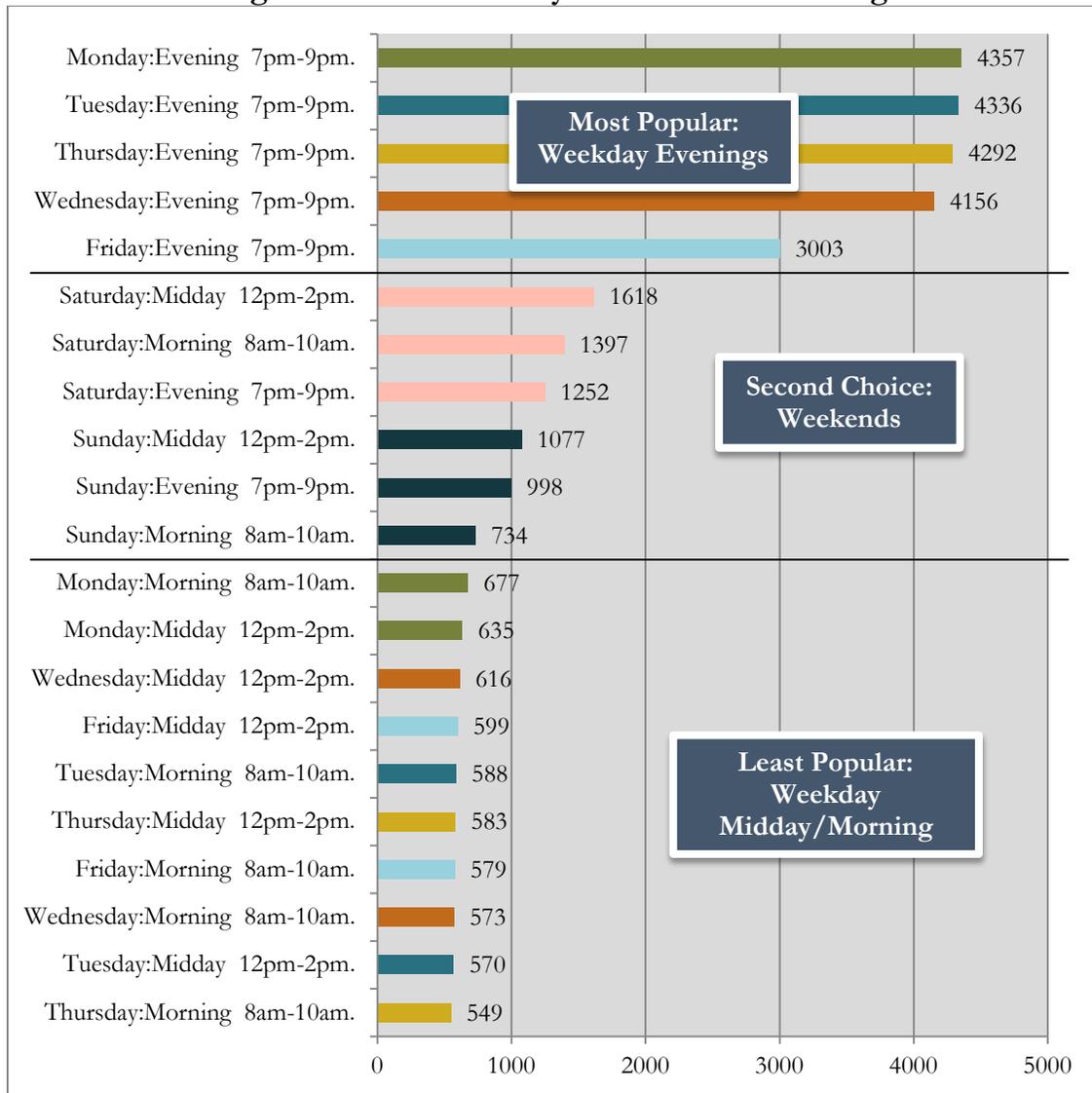
*n=9,969

Figure 14: Would Attend a Meeting about Proposal



*n=10,089

Figure 15: Preferred Day and Time for Meeting



*n=7,840

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<http://www.hanoverresearch.com/evaluation/index.php>

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