February 20, 2026

Dear Community Members,

The District Accountability Committee (DAC) — made up of educators, parents, and community members — serves as advisors to the Board of Education. In January the DAC set priorities for the 2026–27 district calendar, and at the annual Board retreat those priorities guided the Board's interest in pursuing a four-day week for our elementary and junior/senior high schools.

Colorado requires 1,080 instructional hours for high schools and 990 for elementary schools. It is up to the district to decide how to meet those hours. When determining how we will meet those requirements, we leaned upon this guiding principle: Time is Time — what matters most is meaningful learning time, not which days we attend school.

We try to maximize and value academic time. When creating our 2026-27 district calendar, we prioritized academic time by scheduling school days only on days when most students can attend, removing historically low-attendance days so every school day is purposeful and engaging. To keep things simple for families, elementary and secondary schools will share one aligned calendar.

We also prioritized wellbeing, family time, and expanded learning beyond the classroom. A four-day week captures all of these priorities and brings clear advantages:

- **Stronger teacher recruitment and retention** — making our district more competitive and helping us keep our excellent staff.
- **More rest and family time** — an extra day each week supports mental health, family activities, appointments, and enrichment.
- **Deeper learning** — slightly longer days foster richer discussions, extended projects, and hands-on experiences.
- **Positive outcomes elsewhere** — many districts report improved attendance, fewer discipline issues, and academic gains.

To meet state hours we'll move from about 165 days to roughly 150, with each day about 30 minutes longer. This small change yields more focused, high-quality instructional time.

We know childcare is an important consideration. Many families simply shift a few weeks of summer care into the school year; local high school students and community partners often help provide options, and we will work to support families during the transition.

A great deal of thoughtful planning and community collaboration shaped the 2026–27 district calendar. We're excited about the positive impact this change can bring to students, families, and staff. Please share your feedback or questions by phone or email — I welcome your input.

Thank you for your support!

Ryan Renquist

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