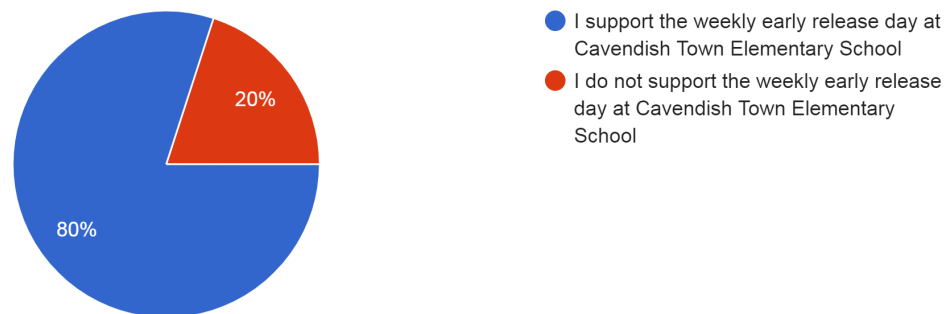


CTES Staff - Weekly Early Release Survey - June 2021

20 Responses

For many years, the schedule at CTES has included an early release day each Tuesday. Teachers use this time for valuable collaboration, professional development, or adding the early release to CAES and GMUHS.

20 responses



The reason I support / do not support the weekly early release day is

- This time is used for valuable collaboration, professional development, and planning, as well as checking in with different teachers about different students. This time allows teachers to better educate ALL students.
- During the time period that we had early release Tuesdays I as a staff person was about to collaborate effectively with the staff members in my building. It allowed time for professional development sessions and the ability to do the paperwork (documentation) that is part of my roll.
- Teachers need time to collaborate, meet with grade level teachers, look at data, provide support systems for kids
- an early release day can allow for the kids to have something to look forward to mid week to allow them to recharge, and allows for the much needed time for teachers to take a breath and prepare what they need to do without having to rush to get it done before kids get back from specials, etc.
- I have seen and lived the benefits of the early release days. We have completed numerous whole school, grade span and individual learning projects. As a group we looked at data and created plans based on that data. We looked at student work and worked through teacher and student dilemmas. We used the time to really enhance our practice. Doing that at 3:00 is not even close to optimal. No one who does our job or one like it would ever think that after

school time is productive. We knew that we could count on the time each week to be fresh and ready to work.

- Tuesdays have allowed collaboration between all staff and if Tuesday afternoons were eliminated I worry that paraprofessional staff voices would not be heard. Staying after 3:00 or coming in even earlier than 7:45 would be an inconvenience, if our time would even be willingly compensated.
- Ongoing PD is essential and Cavendish has benefited from it in the past.
- I support this time to work with other staff members to analyze data together rather than individually; to be able to help each other out when there is a school/student issue a teacher is struggling with (More minds/perspectives to look at the issue); and it is a time to build community/ trust among ourselves. If we are not able to be a community that supports each other, then the children will suffer and feel the tension.
- I support the early release day because it allows staff to have regular uninterrupted collaboration time that is not attainable during a normal length school day.
- Equity-
- I feel there is an equity issue. Tuesday afternoons are easier for families that economically able to afford either to have only one parent working or are able to afford childcare for that afternoon. The ASP program is a wonderful option but If I understand correctly parents need to pay. If so this may create a financial burden if childcare is needed. If ASP was free and available to all families I do not have an issue from an equity perspective.
- I support the early releases because it is a best practice for teachers and for students. It gives students a well-needed break from the academic grind to be with family and to step away from 5 intensive day of learning. I support early release because in a school our size, we have no opportunity to come together to work as a whole group deeply except for inservice days which are monopolized by the SU directives. We have used our Early Release days to solve dilemmas around student performance, to build continuity in curriculum, to dive deeply into conversations around topics and articles. Most importantly Early Release allows for trust to be built amongst the staff and teachers. Paras are so often forgotten during PD. They work with the toughest students and need the most training. Having them part of our Early Release time allows for them to use the same language, build the same continuity, and feel as equally valued.
- Scheduling is already difficult enough. Having an early release day takes away an afternoon that could be used to schedule students.
- It provides much needed collaborative teaming that is not possible with a five day- all day work week. On these days historically, we have completed required state plans, looked at school testing data and student work, worked with paras to plan for targeted services,

included paras in productive staff meetings, had curriculum directors lead targeted professional development, planned for community/school events, participated in critical friend groups, and worked in cross grade teams to plan. Because we only have one classroom per grade and .2 specialists (except for PE), we don't have any collaborative team time.

- The early release day allowed us to meet with other teachers that we do not see in a typical day. I get planning time with other grades that do not have the same special time as me.
- I think it allows teachers to meet and collaborate and it gives the kids a break. I appreciate the pd that can happen due to this day.
- I support because it gives us staff the time we need to plan and meet instead of adding extra to everyone's schedules