

SCHOOL DAY LENGTH

WHITMAN-HANSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DAY



BENEFITS OF A 6.5 HOUR DAY

- Massachusetts Expanded Learning Time schools report:
 - Increased student engagement
 - Students and staff establish more meaningful relationships
 - A balance between academics and enrichment
 - Increased teacher collaboration
 - “Because the impact of time spent learning for students is mediated by the quality of the instruction they receive during that time, more successful schools do not simply provide more classroom time, but also strive to make that classroom time as efficacious as possible.”
- Increase in time for recess & transitions = increased social emotional health of students.

POSSIBLE PITFALLS OF A 6.5 HOUR DAY

- Longer school days could result in attention deficit and fatigue, making the extra class time ineffective.
- Reports show that more time spent in school does not equate directly to higher test scores.
- Children will be traveling home later in the evening.
- Reduces opportunities for extracurricular activities.

DESE GUIDELINES

27.07: School Year Requirements-

“School committees are encouraged to exceed the minimum number of school days wherever possible, and to offer extended day and extended year programs that expand student learning opportunities.”

27.04: Structured Learning Time Requirements-

“Schools shall ensure that every elementary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 900 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in 603 CMR 27.02. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.”

DISTRICT DATA

- HMS Data (6.5 hour day) does not show any benefit in either academic achievement or social emotional health.
- Grade 5 Reading/Math Diagnostic data is not a significant factor.



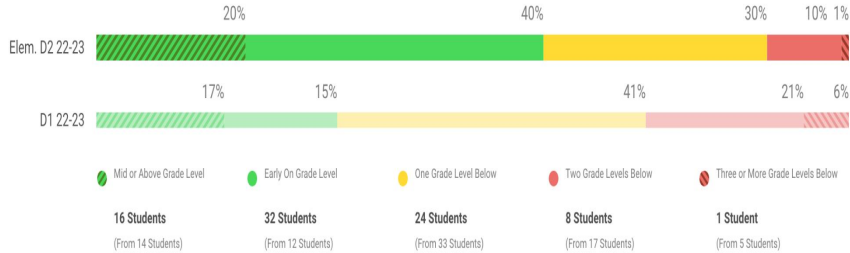
SEL STUDENT SURVEY DATA

1		HMS 5th	Conley 5th grade	Duval 5th grade3
2	Happy (always/often)	60.40%	66.20%	61.60%
3	Rules/expectations (very/mostly)	75.50%	65%	76.90%
4	Kind to classmates	95.30%	97.40%	95.40%
5	classmates kind to you	82.10%	80.60%	80%
6	Like what I Learn (always/often)	53.70%	63.70%	55.40%
7	Encourage (always/often)	91.50%	98.70%	97%
8	Raise hand (always/often)	71.70%	74.10%	76.90%
9	Speaking at school (mostly/extremely)	70.80%	81.90%	73.90%
10	Hard is school (sometimes)	61.30%	80.50%	67.60%
11	Kids Behave (always/often)	54.70%	58.40%	52.30%
12	Part of community (always/often)	73.60%	70.20%	70.80%
13	1 adult	74.50%	88.30%	78.50%

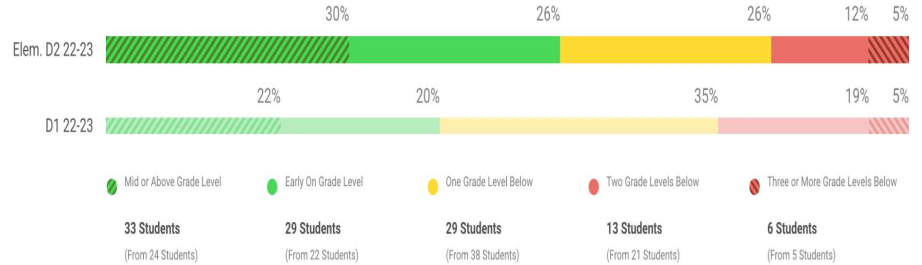
Percentages based on fifth grade respondents for each school.

Where we were in the Fall and where we are now in *Reading...*

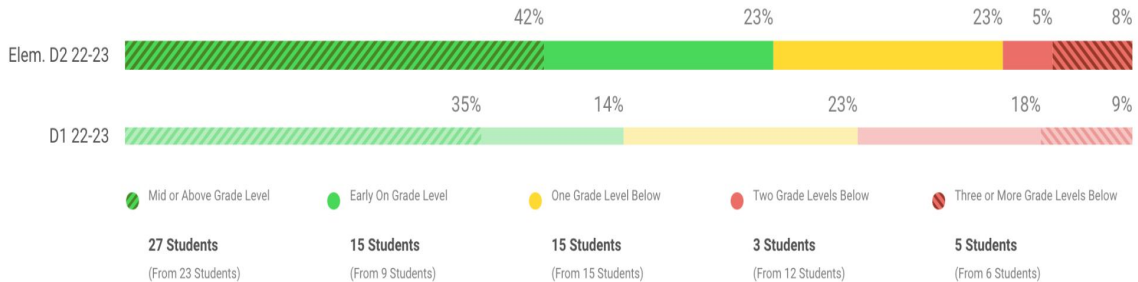
Conley



HMS



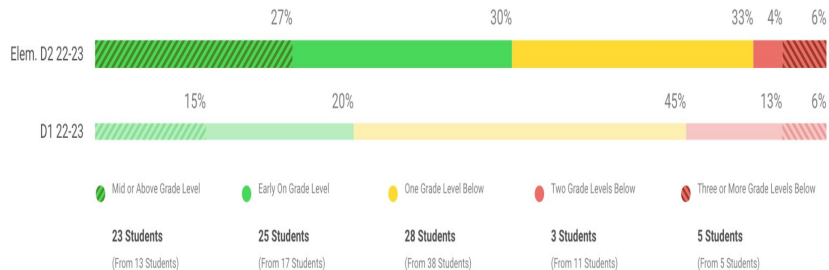
Duval



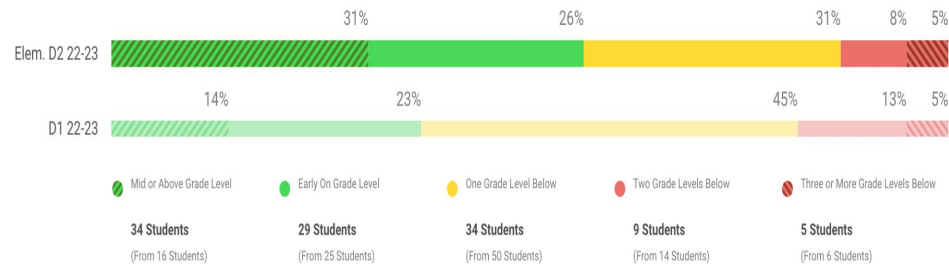
- Mid On-Grade or Above
- Early On-Grade
- 1 Grade Below
- 2 Grades Below
- 3+ Grades Below

Where we were in the Fall and where we are now in Math....

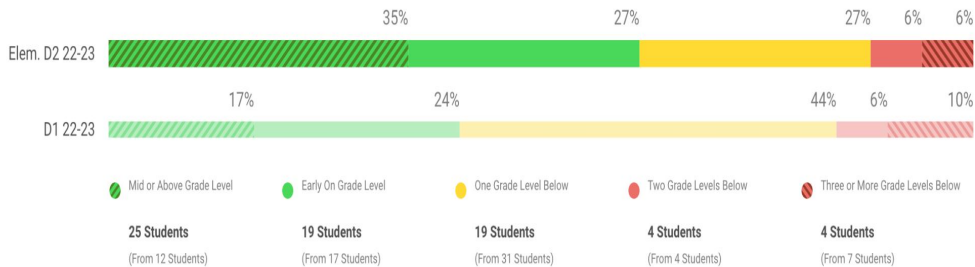
Conley



HMS



Duval



- Mid On-Grade or Above
- Early On-Grade
- 1 Grade Below
- 2 Grades Below
- 3+ Grades Below

LOCAL TRENDS

- Whitman-Hanson is one of two local districts with a 6 hour day.
- When considering the surrounding towns:
 - Median length of day is 6 hours 15 minutes.
 - Average length of day is 6 hours 19 minutes.
 - 5 Plymouth County districts are at 6 hours 30 minutes.
 - 4 Plymouth County districts are at 6 hours 40-45 minutes.
- State average is 6 hours 45 minutes.

NATIONAL TRENDS

- In a 50 state comparison on school day lengths it was found that:
 - There is only 1 statewide policy in the country that requires their school day be over 6 hours.
 - 8 statewide policies require elementary schools to go 6 hours.
 - Not all states require statewide policies; some states allow for community level decisions.

QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

- Ultimately, the research on the length of the school day comes down to the idea that the physical time spent in school matters less than how the time is broken down.
- More time does not equate to more learning.

HOW WILL THE TIME BE USED?

- The additional time will add flexibility to the current schedule to allow opportunities for smoother transitions, independent time, and social-emotional growth.
- We don't foresee an additional 20-30 minutes adding to behaviors. Schools keep a log, and factors regarding negative student behaviors vary depending on the age of students, situations, and individual needs of students.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Per the Unit A contract, elementary schools offer Student Council. Non-contractual opportunities are self-funded (fee-based) and depend on teacher availability.
- Per the Unit A contract, middle schools offer four extracurriculars.
 - HMS: Yearbook, Chorus, Student Council, and Builders Club (HMS).
 - WMS: Yearbook, Chorus, Students for a Cause, and Renaissance (WMS).
- Non-contractual opportunities are self-funded (fee-based) and depend on the availability of coaches and transportation. Activities include Cross Country, Spring Track, and Basketball (HMS).

ELEMENTARY FIELD TRIPS

- Each elementary school celebrates the grade transitioning to the next building, including supporting children with those transition.
- Field trips include many factors, including the availability of transportation. Field trips, if any, vary year to year at each building.
- For schools with a PTO/PAC, they play a role in planning field trips and enrichment activities for students.

NO COST OPTION

	<u>Option</u>	<u>Length of Day</u>
H.S.	7:20 – 1:55	6:35
M.S.	8:00 – 2:30	6:30
Conley	8:40 – 3:00	6:20
Duval	9:15 – 3:35	6:20
IH	8:55 – 3:15	6:20

Elementary routes can be shortened if walk to stop is adjusted to .75 of a mile, making more group stops and no more going into neighborhoods. This will help with the later dismissal for IH & Duval.

Goal is to be done dropping off by 4:00 PM

(District alignment for PD is still not addressed)

(Subject to Collective Bargaining with the WHEA)