



Twinsburg Board of Education Meeting

November 1, 2023

Discussion Regarding April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse



TCSD – Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

**The geographic region
between Cleveland and Akron
lies within the path of totality.**

- **Begins at 1:59 p.m.**
- **Maximum at 3:15 p.m.**
- **Ends at 4:29 p.m.**
- **Duration of 2 hours and 30 minutes
with a total solar eclipse of 3 minutes
and 50 seconds**



TCSD – Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

Currently, Monday, April 8, 2024 is a regular school day.

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 is a Data Day. It is also the Muslim holyday, Eid-al-Fitr.

- **One Thursday, October 26, 2023, we met with Mayor Scaffide, Chief Mason, Chief Bosso, and Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Betenson.**
- **The City of Twinsburg is not anticipating any issues with traffic. They are not planning any special activities for the Solar Eclipse Day.**
- **The City of Reminderville is currently not planning any special activities for the Solar Eclipse Day, per RAC Director Jessica Rockhill.**



TCSD – Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

A Parent/Guardian Survey and a Staff Survey were circulated asking for feedback regarding the school day on April 8, 2024.

- **874 parents/guardians responded**
- **299 staff members responded**



TCSD – Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

Parent/Guardian Survey
Responses:

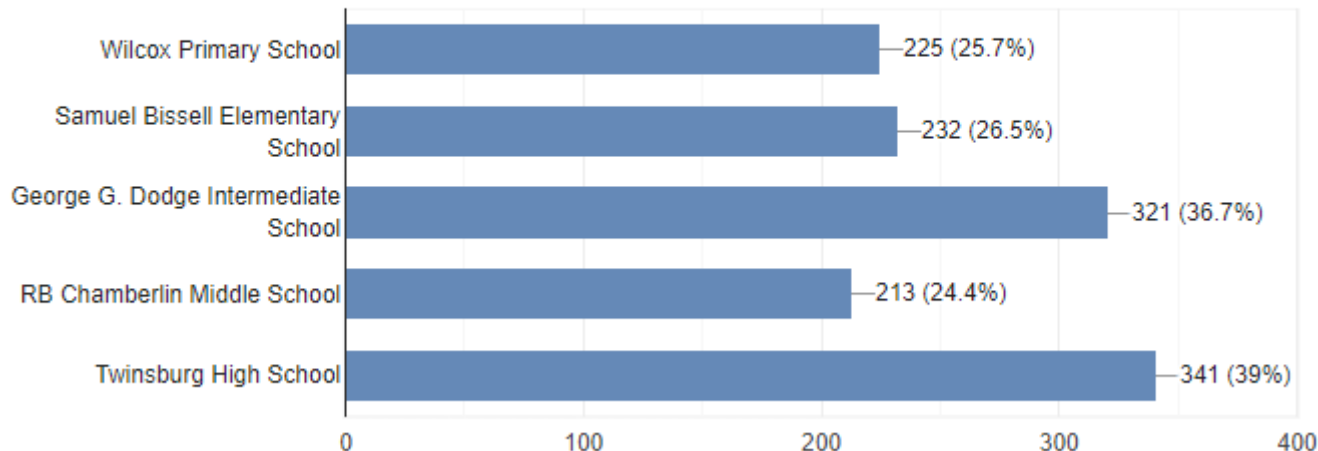


TCSD – Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

My child/children attend:



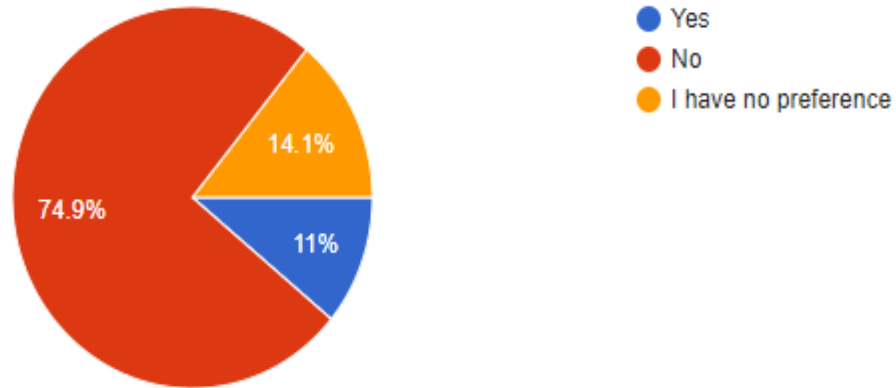
874 responses



TCSD – Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

I prefer the school day to be held as scheduled on Monday, April 8, 2024.

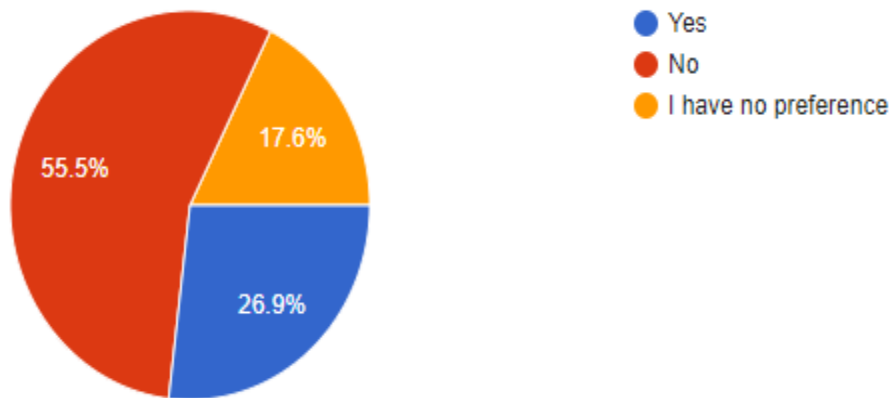
874 responses



TCSD – Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

I prefer to have school for one-half day, morning only, on Monday, April 8, 2024. This would mean that afternoon Preschool students would not report.

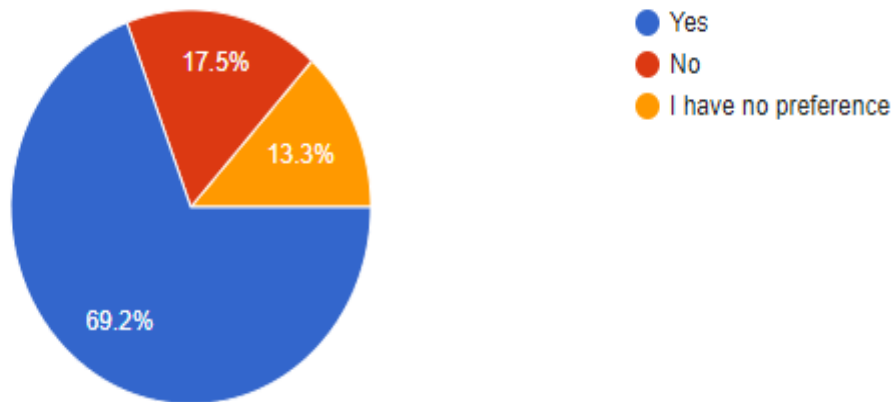
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TCSD – Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

I prefer to not have school on Monday, April 8, 2024 with the District calling the day a Calamity Day to allow for family viewing of the total solar eclipse.

874 responses



TCSD – Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

Some comments from our Parents/Guardians:

I would prefer that the district allows the kids to view the eclipse from their homes with their families for this once in a lifetime event.

Love for kids to see it while at school, makes for great learning opportunities however timing my kid will be on bus, therefore I prefer half day.

Full scheduled day as normal

This day should be one that kids can experience with family!

Thank you for recognizing the significance of this event and possibly allowing families to participate in the viewing together.



TCSD – Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

Some comments from our Parents/Guardians:

An early dismissal would make sense, and several districts in the area are doing this. It would not make sense to miss a full day when the events is at the end of the school day.

It should be an opportunity to discuss the science in school, no reason for a day off. Many parents wouldn't be able to share the context / scientific concepts around the eclipse.

It would be nice to have some sort of organized viewing with the school- maybe something with the science department

It's way to early to make a significant decision regarding this. The weather in April in northeastern Ohio is way too unpredictable to know if we'll even be able to view. Also, it would be perfect acceptable for teachers to take their students outside for viewing, especially for older kids!



TCSD – Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

Some comments from our Parents/Guardians:

An early release day, modified bell schedule at the high school, would be a great in between option to still allow instruction to take place and have students experience this amazing phenomenon.

I remember doing this as a kid during school hours because the timing of the eclipse worked out. It will be neat to experience this with my kids if possible.

I'd be fine with a half day to experience the eclipse

I love that our district allows days off for diverse religious holidays and think also allowing families the opportunity to experience memorable moments like a solar eclipse shows that we care about the whole child/family.



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Staff Survey:

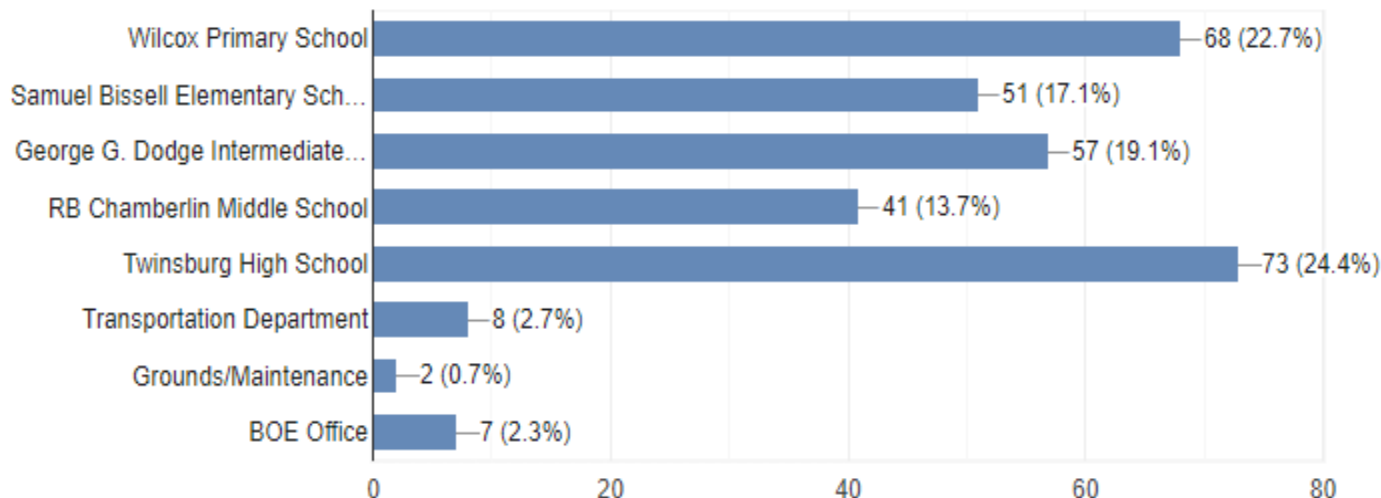


TCSD – Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

My primary work assignment is:



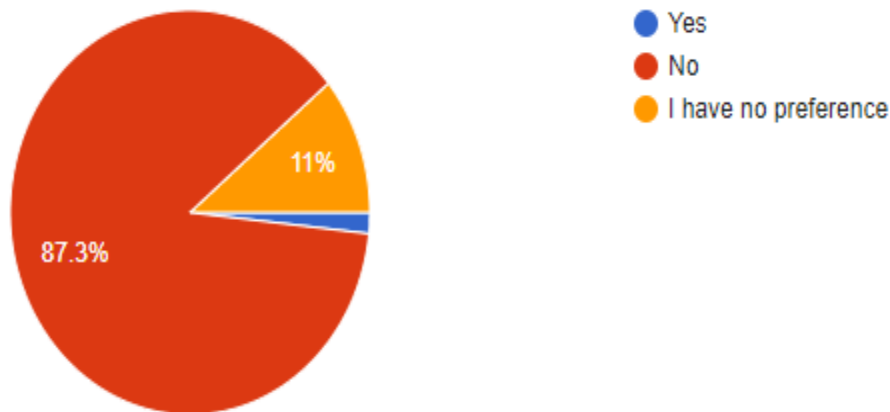
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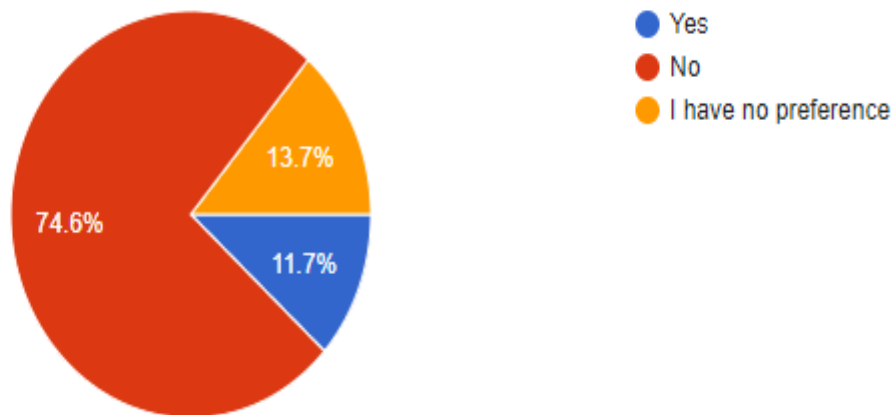
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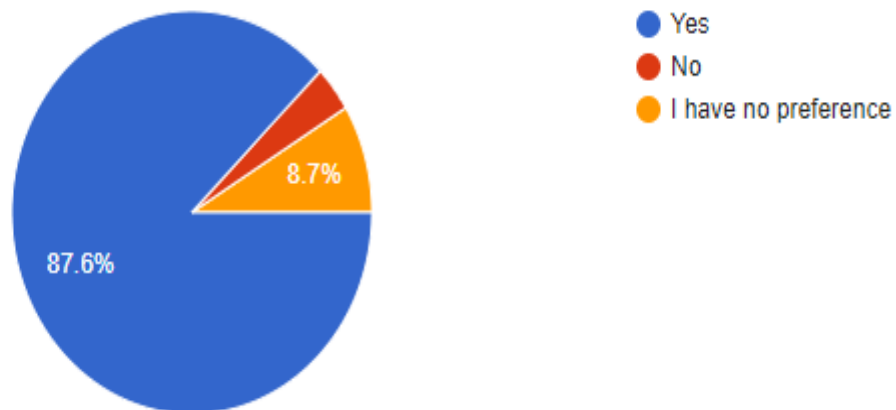
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TCSD – Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

Some comments from our Staff Members:

I think it would be great for students to get to experience this with their families. Thank you for considering the change in schedule.

Either 1/2 day or full day off to preferred.

Half day that can be changed to a full day if April arrives and we have not used 3+ calamity days.

I appreciate you giving us the option for our families and community to witness this amazing History to be made. I think the 1/2 day would be ideal for everyone. Thank you.

This being a once in a lifetime opportunity, teachers should have the opportunity to view it with their own children. Thank you for this consideration!



TCSD – Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

Some comments from our Staff Members:

**I agree dismissal may present challenges.
Half day will provide an opportunity to learn
more about the historical significance of this
event rather than just a day off.**

**It would be something for the kids to
remember**

**I am concerned about staff and student call
offs; therefore, a calamity day may be most
appropriate (after we've reviewed the
survey data).**

**If we have enough calamity days I would
like it to be called as a calamity day. If not I
would prefer the half day option.**

**I may or may not be more excited for the
Guardians Home Opener that day, so a
calamity day would be perfect!**



TCSD – Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

Some comments from our Staff Members:

I think if it's called calamity day in advance that parents will be able to make arrangements for young children.

Although I have no preference as stated, it is an almost once in a lifetime experience. In that context, I would actually like to see it.

It is once in a life time event.

This is, indeed, a rare and spectacular event. While total solar eclipses themselves are somewhat rare, they are visible from such a small portion of the earth's surface that is quite rare to have one visible from our city, or even anywhere close to our city, making this a once-in-a lifetime opportunity. I had the privilege of viewing the total eclipse that occurred in August of 2017 from a location that experienced totality. I can tell you that it was by far the most spectacular natural phenomenon that I have ever witnessed, and affected me profoundly.



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If April 8th is a Calamity Day, what impact does that have to our total number of required hours in school?

Required Number of Hours:

Wilcox:	910 hours
Bissell:	910 hours
Dodge:	910 hours
RBC:	1001 hours
THS, Grades 9-11:	1001 hours
THS, Grade 12:	1001 hours

Overage in Number of Days as of 11/01/23 (accounting for 3 PD days at Bissell):

Wilcox:	31.24 days
Bissell:	28.24 days
Dodge:	33.26 days
RBC:	19.08 days
Twinsburg High School, Grades 9-11:	16.86 days
Twinsburg High School Seniors:	7.86 days



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Recommendation:

Based upon the feedback shared by parents/guardians and staff members through the surveys, our recommendation is to designate Monday, April 8, 2024 as a Calamity Day, allowing our students and staff members to view this historic event with their families.

**Board of Education
Discussion**



Questions?

