# ACTION ITEM

**To:** Members of the Elizabethtown Board of Education

**From:** Kelli Bush, Superintendent

**Date:** April 18, 2022

**Subject:** Early Release Fridays for 22/23 School Year

**FACTS:** In order to continue the faculty and staff work needed to accelerate post pandemic student learning, a need continues to exist for collaborative professional learning in regard to reviewing and analyzing student achievement data. The Early Release Fridays in 21/22 allowed for much needed professional development for EIS staff on topics that focused on strategies and best practices upon returning to full time in person learning. Now, the focus for the upcoming school year will be "implementation" in relation to formative student assessment data. This need allows for fewer early release Fridays to occur with the dates strategically placed after the completion of assessments.

The proposed dates are as follows:
- Friday, September 2 - "Get to know your students" - review and analyze formative assessments, Spring Benchmark assessments, Summer School data
- Friday, October 14 - review and analyze state assessment data, Fall CASE, Fall STAR, universal behavior benchmarks
- Friday, Number 11 - focus on high performing students - review ITBS, GSSPS (GT student service plans), K-12 enrichment data
- Friday, January 27- review and analyze Winter CASE, STAR and universal behavior benchmarks
- Friday, February 24 - review and analyze formative assessments to prepare for student needs in preparation for upcoming end of the year assessments (AP, ACT, KSA, etc)
- Friday, April 21 - review and analyze Spring CASE, STAR, universal behavior benchmarks, create "watch lists", plan for credit retrieval needs, summer school students, etc.

**RECOMMENDATION:** I recommend the proposed 6 day Early Release schedule for the 22/23 school year be approved.

# EIS Early Release Friday Spring Feedback Summary, 2022

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| **What do you find most useful or helpful on Early Release Fridays?** | **Top Responses**–Planning time, PLC time, time to collaborate, getting caught up on paperwork, grading and entering grades, making copies, work on IEPs, time to have committee meetings and staff meetings, emailing and calling parents<br><br>Many commented that they found no value in Fridays<br><br>Some mentioned Kagan Coaching, OG Coaching and data analysis | | | |
| **What do you find most challenging on Early Release Fridays?** | **Top responses**–Shorter/hurried Friday schedule and loss of instructional time, transportation changes, student programming is chaotic or feels like babysitting, not being given enough time to plan for the next week, more behavior issues on Fridays, useless tasks and busy work<br><br>Many commented it was much better after Christmas when they had more planning time<br><br>Some shared they appreciated them, did not have challenges, and hope we keep them<br><br>Some said everything about it was challenging | | | |
| **If given the choice, which would you choose?** | 42.1%, keep it as it is | 26.3%, continue but not every Friday | 31.6%, return to full Fridays and move the work to PLC time and Wednesdays after school | |
| **In which manner would you prefer to complete ongoing collaborative work, professional learning, etc. if early release Fridays were removed from the calendar?** | Less than 10%, weekly faculty meetings | 11.4% weekly planning meetings | 32.5% teacher work days | 54.4% a combination of two or more of these |