



Date: September 1, 2023

To: Navigator Schools Academic Success Committee

From: Sean Martin, Board Secretary

Subject: The Impact of Minimum School Days on Student Attendance at Navigator Schools

This analysis explores the impact of minimum school days on student attendance. The report focuses on the 2022-23 (2023) academic year at all Navigator Schools. Hayward Collegiate (HCC) is generally addressed first throughout the report, as the consistency of its minimum-day cycle during 2023 affords the most extensive scope of instructional days for immediate consideration. Analyses pertaining to Gilroy Prep School (GPS), Hollister Prep School (HPS), and Watsonville Prep School (WPS) share the same methodology, but applied to a specific range of months in which minimum days consistently occurred on the same day of the week (Wednesday).

Annual Instructional Days and Minutes in Context

Table 1 lists the total number of instructional days in 2023 and 2024 for each Navigator school. All Navigator Schools have the same number of instructional days in 2024.

Table 1. Number of Instructional Days

School	2023	2024
GPS	178	180
HCC	180	180
HPS	178	180
WPS	173	180
Average	177	180

Table 2 documents the total number of instructional minutes per day (for regular days and minimum days) in 2023 and 2024 at HCC by grade span. Grade-span configurations shifted in the student information system (SIS) from 2023 to 2024 due to the addition of new grade levels. Minimum-day instructional minutes increased in 2024 across all grade levels.

Table 2. HCC Instructional Minutes

	2023		2024	
Grade Span	Regular Day	Minimum Day	Regular Day	Minimum Day
KN	405	230	--	--
1-4	410	250	--	--
TK-5	--	--	410	260
Average	407.5	240	410	260

Table 3 features the total number of regular days (RD), minimum days (MD), all instructional days, and the percentage of days that were MD at each school.

Table 3. Days by Type per School Ranked by % MD (2023)

School	RD Days	MD Days	All Days	% MD
HPS	118	60	178	33.7
WPS	115	58	173	33.5
GPS	120	58	178	32.5
HCC	140	40	180	28.6

Cadence of Minimum Days

At HCC in 2023, minimum days occurred every Wednesday when school was in session, from August 17 to June 7. There was one additional minimum day on Friday, June 9 (the final day of school) at HCC.

At GPS, HPS, and WPS in 2023, minimum days occurred in a more varied fashion (falling on every Wednesday, some Fridays, four consecutive days in August, six consecutive days in October, and five consecutive days in June).

Comparing Attendance by Day

The online Navigator Schools Daily Percent in Attendance Dashboard was updated every school day, from August 16, 2022 to May 17, 2023. This Tableau workbook provides Support Office staff, school leaders, and Student Services staff with a timely overview of student attendance. It includes attendance averages by school, grade level, month, and weekday. The analysis in this report utilized this dashboard as its data source and employs its weekday-average capability to create an approximate comparison of student attendance on regular and minimum school days. A sample of the main dashboard page is included at the end of this report (Appendix A).

In the case of HCC, all months are included in the average attendance percentage, from August through mid-May. In the case of GPS, HPS, and WPS, the months of December through mid-May are included in the attendance average. This is due the fact that, during this six-month period, minimum days occurred weekly on Wednesday. In addition, minimum days sometimes occurred on Fridays during this period, but much less frequently. As an experiment, September (another month with minimum days occurring almost exclusively on Wednesday) was added to the averages for these three schools, but this additional data did not alter the ultimate rank of weekdays by average attendance.

Table 4 lists the number of minimum days that occurred on Wednesday and Friday during the two time periods described above.

Table 4. Count of Minimum Days per Weekday

Time Period	School	Wednesday	Friday	Monday	Total (W+F)
Aug - May	HCC	39	0	0	39
Dec - May	HCC	23	0	0	23
	GPS	20	5	1	26
	HPS	22	5	1	28
	WPS	21	4	1	26

Correlation Between Attendance and Minimum Days

The following tables list average student attendance by weekday for each school. Weekdays are ranked in descending order (the weekday with the highest average attendance is placed first).

The least attended day at HCC (Table 5) was Monday, followed by Friday. It is important to note that zero minimum days occurred on Monday or on Friday at HCC during the August-through-May time period.

Table 5. HCC: Average % in Attendance Ranked by Weekday (Aug - May)

	HCC				
	Th	Tu	W	F	M
August	97.8	93.6	94.5	95.5	90.9
September	94.2	95.7	97.2	91.2	95.5
October	94.4	94.5	94.0	93.6	90.9
November	92.7	91.4	91.7	87.4	89.1
December	83.5	80.9	77.6	81.8	76.7
January	95.2	94.9	91.4	94.4	92.6
February	96.1	95.9	93.9	94.7	92.5
March	95.7	95.5	96.9	93.4	94.2
April	95.5	94.1	93.3	91.6	92.3
May	93.6	97.3	95.1	94.2	94.8
Total Avg	94.0	94.0	93.4	91.6	91.4

Table 6. GPS: Average % in Attendance Ranked by Weekday (Dec - May)

	GPS				
	Th	W	Tu	M	F
December	88.0	85.4	84.5	84.8	87.0
January	94.4	92.2	90.6	90.3	90.0
February	94.5	93.6	95.1	93.4	92.5
March	93.5	94.3	93.6	93.6	90.1
April	93.8	93.9	93.6	92.1	91.3
May	94.0	94.1	92.8	92.0	91.6
Total Avg	93.1	92.8	92.0	91.4	90.3

At GPS (Table 6), the least attended day was Friday, followed by Monday. Wednesday was the second-most highly attended day. In the case of HPS (Table 7), Monday was the least attended day, followed by Friday. Wednesday was the second-most highly attended day at HPS.

Table 7. HPS: Average % in Attendance Ranked by Weekday (Dec - May)

	HPS				
	Th	W	Tu	F	M
December	86.9	85.6	84.4	88.5	83.0
January	94.9	91.6	91.8	92.1	90.3
February	94.2	92.6	93.9	91.3	92.0
March	93.3	93.1	92.6	91.4	91.5
April	94.4	95.3	94.1	94.0	90.2
May	93.5	93.3	94.2	92.5	91.7
Total Avg	93.0	92.3	92.2	91.6	90.2

Table 8. WPS: Average % in Attendance Ranked by Weekday (Dec - May)

	WPS				
	Tu	Th	W	M	F
December	86.0	88.0	89.1	87.1	84.4
January	92.1	92.9	91.0	89.4	84.5
February	93.4	91.9	91.2	87.4	90.0
March	91.2	92.4	90.5	86.4	87.2
April	93.5	93.1	93.4	91.0	92.5
May	94.1	93.0	94.1	90.0	91.2
Total Avg	92.0	91.9	91.5	88.6	88.0

The least attended weekday at WPS (Table 8) was Friday, followed by Monday.

Table 9 (following page) displays an average attendance percentage for all Navigator Schools combined (NAV) from August to mid-May. Monday and Friday were the least attended days while Thursday and Wednesday were the two most highly attended days.

Table 9. NAV: Average % in Attendance Ranked by Weekday (Aug - May)

	Th	W	Tu	F	M
August	95.6	95.3	94.2	93.3	91.5
September	94.9	95.2	94.5	93.0	93.4
October	94.4	93.9	93.4	92.6	91.9
November	92.1	91.5	90.8	88.3	90.1
December	86.8	84.8	84.1	85.8	83.2
January	94.4	91.6	92.1	90.6	90.6
February	94.3	92.9	94.6	91.8	91.5
March	93.6	93.6	93.3	90.4	91.6
April	94.1	94.1	93.8	92.4	91.3
May	93.5	94.1	94.4	92.3	92.0
Total Avg	93.5	93.0	92.9	91.1	91.0

Conclusion

Even though Wednesday is the most prevalent minimum day, it was not the least attended weekday on average at any school, during the time periods in question. The least attended weekday was either Monday or Friday. In the case of the overall average for Navigator Schools, Wednesday was the second-most highly attended weekday from August through mid-May during the 2023 school year.

Extending this analysis to include data through the end of school in June would make the data set more comprehensive, but due to the unique nature of the final week of school, this addition may not prove to be helpful. Adding the capability to filter by day type (RM and MD) to the attendance dashboard would empower viewers to explore potential correlations on-demand and with greater freedom and efficiency.

More powerful correlations may exist between student attendance and other influencing factors. These factors might include teacher attendance, the engaging properties of special events and celebrations, health alerts (formal and informal), weather, and local transportation conditions and schedules, including traffic and construction.

Navigator Schools designs and implements complex, customized schedules to support its unique educational model, including proactive intervention strategies, extended learning opportunities, transformational professional development, optimal assessment coordination, and unifying school traditions. Where there is innovation there is risk, and a high cadence of minimum days is a logical topic for careful consideration in light of its potential impact on attendance patterns

and levels of engagement on the part of students, parents, and staff. This analysis suggests that minimum-day schedules are effective structures supporting the mission of Navigator Schools, and there is no obvious correlation between minimum days and decreased student attendance.

Appendix A. Navigator Schools Daily Percent in Attendance Dashboard

A. Daily Attendance Overview | B. School Detail | C. Gr Level Sandbox (Wkly)

A. Average Daily Percent in Attendance

a. Time Period

August 16, 2022

May 17, 2023

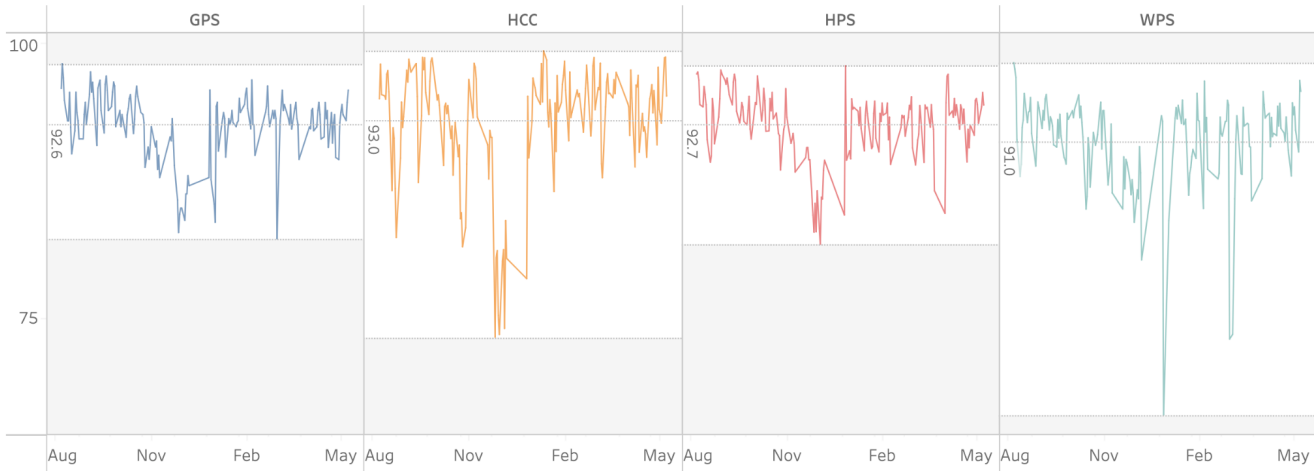


b. Grade Level

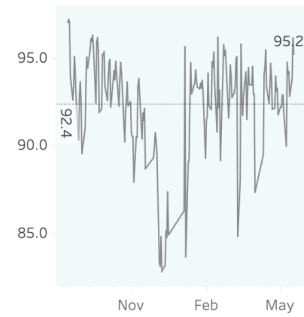
(All)



A1. AVG Daily Percent in Attendance: School



A2. AVG Daily % in Attendance: NAV



A3. Weekday AVG: School

	M	Tu	W	Th	F
GPS	91.7	92.8	93.4	93.6	91.2
HCC	91.4	94.0	93.4	94.0	91.6
HPS	91.2	93.0	93.4	93.7	91.9
WPS	89.3	91.8	91.8	92.6	89.4
All	91.0	92.9	93.0	93.5	91.1

89.3 94.0

A4. GL AVG: NAV

6	94.4
7	93.4
2	93.2
5	93.1
3	92.8
4	92.6
8	92.0
1	92.0
KN	90.7
TK	89.1

A5. Grade Level AVG: School

	TK	KN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	All
GPS		91	92	93	92	92	93	94	93	93	93
HCC	91	91	93	94	94	94					93
HPS		91	92	93	93	92	93	95	94	91	93
WPS	87	89	91	93	92	92	93				91
All	89	91	92	93	93	93	93	94	93	92	92

87 95