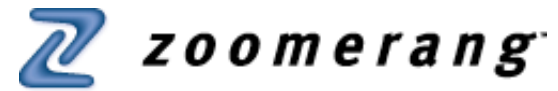


Beginning of 2007-2008 School Year

Results Overview



Date: 9/9/2007 7:03 PM PST

Responses: Completes

Filter: No filter applied

21. Please include any comments you would like to share with the District Office about the start of the school year. These comments will remain anonymous.

#	Response
1	I strongly believe that the first day back should be a teacher workday, rather than a pep rally/district/school based staff development. My personal focus is, and always will be, "what do I need to do to get ready for the first day with students." This self assessment begins in the classroom. Even with the best staff development, the most moving motivational speaker, or the most informative central staffer, a big part of my attention is in my room...
2	Mr. Conner did a great job using his PD day here at school--he understood the pressure and the stress that we were under and adapted his ideas to us. The district was so absolutely out of touch with what was needed--I thought the day was totally wasted at a time that it could not be afforded.
3	<p>I wish that when SASI is shut down in the summer that it would be throughly checked as nit to cause glitches when school starts. It is very hard with all of our schools to get help when we need it. Hire more Techonology Assistants.</p> <p>START SCHOOL AFTER LABOR DAY> For years everyone one did this. It helps with truancy. So what if you go two weeks into June it all balances out. We lose tons of money because of the thousands who are truant those first 10 days, which in turn can affect teacher numbers and then schedules have to be re-run. I some states it is state law taht no school, public private or parochial start before labor day. Part of this is because of tourism and many studnets are needed to work up til labor day.</p> <p>It is my opinion that with all the evaluation tools, making certain what is needed to be written on the board daily so that an evaluator can see what is going on in the classroom, dotting all the is and crossing all the ts we are getting more like robots. I know many wonderful, creative, and knowledgeable teachers who are so caught up in doing all "the stuff" that they feel the fun has been taken out of teaching.</p> <p>School uniforms. With the increasing numero ftasks we have to do in the classroom to be deemed proficient we also have to monitor attire: hats, what is written on shirts, skirt length, etc. If everybody had a uniform none of this would happen.</p>
4	District info for new teachers to district was far better than in Berkeley County!! Technology, however, is way behind.
5	As teachers we are required to be ready when the students arrive. However, our administrators have dropped the ball. We have no IDs, not enough texbooks, no tardy identification cards, we didn't get our teaching assignments until three days before school started. If we were this unprepared in class, we would be reprimanded, with a "letter in the file". Also, it would help at the beginning of the year (and throughout the year) if the principals were a visible presence in the hallways. They are missing in action during class change. We are required to be at our doors at the change of class, even though we have 1 million things to do, and the 9 principals should do likewise. It really helps with student control.
6	Although as teachers we are expected to be prepared with a lesson plan on a daily basis. It did not appear that our administration nor our guidance office were prepared for the school opening.
7	School based professional development is far more meaningful that district-wide. Also, the kindergarten Fabric Foss kit training was a mess. In addition, this kit is so similar to the Wood/Paper kit that I am wondering why this one was chosen.
8	The only reason my class was ready for the first day of school was because I spent many hours at home, after hours at the school and came in on Saturday to do what was necessary. Teachers need to be given more time to pull classrooms together since we literally have to pack everything at the end of the year. Two workdays simply aren't enough.
9	Anything we can do to give us more planning time!
10	Again if "they" want all this stuff done then, give us more unencumbered workdays. We were required to listen to a speaker then, in the email were told he would be availabe after for us to buy and have his book signed. How unethical!!!
11	My new teacher training was a waste of time on August 20 at 75 Calhoun. 2/3 of us had to sit from 8:00 to 9:45 while 1/3 went to computer lab for blood and sex harass test. The computer stuff could have been done at home school and the rest from 8-11 am.
12	Our professional workday, especially Friday, was a total waste of the whole day. My time would have been better spent working on my individual class & lesson plans for the coming weeks instead listening to people who were unsure of what they were instructing us to do.
13	The start of the school year was wonderful! Dr. McGinley truly helped start this year on the right foot.
14	I would like to see us have a half day for the first day start. We could switch one of the two half days at the end.

15	Our 6th graders started on Monday for a four hour orientation. Not only did this affect 6th grade teachers' workday, but there was preparation time prior to the orientation. Teachers were not compensated for this time.
16	West Ashley High is on a good track with new leadership. As expected, there are still a few kinks to be worked out; however, I am confident about the progress being made.
17	In reference to question #17, I would prefer students begin on a Thursday so there are two days set up strictly for rules, routines, procedures, expectations, and those other beginning of the year things. This would allow for a fresh start Monday and less wasted time before beginning work. This is how it was done for years in Berkeley County and seemed to create a smoother transition into the new school year.
18	The "in the classroom" workdays are critical to a successful start to the year. Otherwise you end up playing "catch up" to get everything done and your teaching suffers.
19	I would prefer a Wednesday start. Teacher workdays should come first followed by the professional development days. Most teachers would focus more on the professional development if their classrooms were already in order.
20	One PD preferably
21	The district failed to get toilet paper or paper towels delivered to our school. I am still waiting on my rug to be cleaned from August 2006
22	Chaos. Numerous errors that could have been prevented by being more organized.
23	There should not be any professional development before school starts. The rooms had not been taken care of by maintenance and I could not do boards etc. until they had done the work on the work order that I submitted in May. Air conditioning didn't work.....very hard to work under these heat conditions.
24	At Wando, copy machines were not operational (the one in my pod hasn't worked all week), books weren't distributed until Thursday -- I still don't have them in one class, there were insufficient books to distribute in one course, even though the numbers for the course were known last June, schedules were not sent to teachers and have, in fact, been a "work in progress" all week. Books and syllabi should be distributed on the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, especially on a block schedule. It's been a very difficult beginning.
25	My classroom was warm and extremely humid. With August being the hottest month it would make sense to make sure that the air conditioners were working properly and that the rooms were cool. The first 2 days we had meetings in the cafeteria with no air conditioning.
26	Space issues have caused the start of school to be somewhat confusing. We are unable to offer the best possible program including a science lab and a music program that has a home. Our classrooms are very crowded and our schedule is very tight. We have a wonderful, diverse group of students that we are serving well in spite of these shortcomings, but if it is all about the children, as it should be, we should be offering them the best possible conditions and facilities for their education.
27	AC was not working in the whole building. Playground was not acceptable and the health department had many concerns. Repairs that should/could of been made over the summer were not made...having to guide students around and through hanging wires was not safe! Elementary teachers NEED more time to prepare their classrooms than levels. All teachers should not be grouped together. Individual needs should be assessed.
28	It would be wonderful to have a start date on a Wednesday, that way we can get in all the procedures, and policies in on those first three days, and jump right in on the following full week.
29	Reading and Language Arts have now been split, and clear guidelines about the split were not given until the day before students arrived. These two areas should not be taught independent of each other. ELA should be a ninety minute block of time. Many reading teachers felt unprepared.
30	Overall, a great job by Administration setting the tone and getting us ready, as well as the school. Things are running much more smoothly, which is understandable since we were at a brand new school last year.
31	The new teacher orientation sessions offered by the district were largely a waste of time. I felt for those teachers who were required to be out of the building when they should have been setting up their classrooms.
32	SASI is a horrible tool for scheduling or the people using it are inadequately trained. there are better systems out there.
33	Itinerant teachers were not given their \$275 materials checks on the first day like other teachers were. We have had to call payroll to check on the status of our checks a week after everyone else got theirs and have been told that our checks will not be cut until next week, making us two weeks late in getting them.
34	We are using a new ELA program, so that makes me feel less prepared.
35	Our student schedules for exploratory classes were scrambled. Courses were changed from a quarter to a semester with only one week notice to rewrite lesson plans for the courses. VERY frustrating.
	IT needs to better communicate changes to the computer lab. Software that was on the network when school ended last year has

36	now disappeared. Problems need to be identified and corrected BEFORE students arrive. NOTE: Our technician, Jason, goes above and beyond the call of duty!
37	On the Professional Development Days, we were given a large amount of tasks to complete before Tuesday, many of which were not crucial to the beginning of school. Some of these, such as the safety surveys, could have been completed at a later time, therefore giving us adequate time to prepare our classrooms.
38	The Wando Administrators are inept at creating a working schedule and informing teachers what they will be teaching. We don't find out until pre-planning even though they had kids register for classes last spring. They always blame the SASI technology, but I think they just need to do a better and quicker job with the schedule.
39	First day of school was utter chaos. I do not understand why there is chaos, guidance and administration have all summer to plan and prepare. The first day of school should be smooth as glass.
40	This is a wonderful place with great people both teaching and in administration... we can do better in thinking and planning than we have.
41	We need more days to prepare for student arrival. Teachers come in days early to prepare and would not be able to serve students without doing so and should be compensated.
42	This year some of the teachers had to move into trailers. We were required to move our own things from our old classroom into a trailer-no help from the school. Let alone my trailer wasn't ready until the Friday before school started. Also I think it would be good to start the first day of school as a half day.
43	I was hired as a career counselor so I answered the questions according to my experiences within the guidance department. Thank you.
44	The system relies on unpaid overtime. The first day we were to report, we had meetings all day, yet we were expected to greet parents that evening at fact and fee night in our classrooms. We had to work before the start of school to have presentable classrooms, as the rooms are dismantled for the summer floor work. In addition, with all the CC meetings and calendars, teachers had inadequate time to do such necessary tasks as assign locks and lockers, create daily lesson plans, etc. There needs to be at least one more PAID teacher workday before students arrive.
45	At the beginning of the year (before students arrive) teachers need more time in their classes and with department teachers. Two days is not nearly enough time to get a classroom set up (especially when changing rooms), work on a curriculum calendar with other teachers, and have everything else ready for day 1. Being forced to attend a training sessions that is not beneficial only leads to frustration.
46	I definitely felt less prepared and informed this year. We did not receive our letter until the Sat before we came to school! There was less organization of materials to begin school and many of us felt overwhelmed by the dictates of the county concerning coherent curriculum and other matters. Charleston County tends to institute things(programs, etc.) and then works on them as they are thrown out to the teachers; hence, the feeling of chaos and confusion!
47	We moved to a new school building this year and had an amazingly smooth start. Thanks to those downtown (staff development and textbook management particularly) who helped us out.
48	Guidance was AWFUL... in all my years of teaching, I never saw the schedules as messed up as they were. We need someone devoted to scheduling.. not the guidance director or the principal....
49	Friday the school scheduled a "lunch" that was sandwiched between a 45-minute meeting before and an in-service after, taking up from 11:45 until 1:30 of the workday. Friday afternoon several teachers were scheduled for a parent conference. Thus, the workday allowed us only 3-4 hours of work time. On Monday we were required to participate in Freshman orientation during the morning hours; after lunch there was a departmental meeting. Result: only 2-3 hours of workday. If I had not spent 3 days during the summer getting my room ready, I would not have been prepared for school. In addition, my room has not had air-conditioning, although I reported it a month ago when I was getting my room ready and have reported it frequently since the start of school. The TV report that airconditioning issues have resolved was untrue. I wish the district would enforce their workday requirements and actually fix the air conditioning.
50	I liked it better the year we had books waiting ON US the first day. This year we did not get textbooks until Friday/Monday. We could not issue them until later in the week. Scheduling was a nightmare as well. Too many of our students had 2 or more study halls on the first day.
51	The only reason I am somewhat prepared is because I came for a total of 10 hours to set up my room before school opened for teachers.
52	My start has been fabulous!! Thanks Angel Oak!
53	I would like my teacher workdays before the professional development days and I think we could of combined the 2 professional development days into 1. I would prefer another day in my classroom and for planning. I also prefer starting school on a Wed. or Thur for the start of the school year. This has been a very long and exhausting week.
54	None at this time.
55	Elementary teachers have needs for more workdays at the beginning of the year. We have to unstack desks, arrange furniture, and then we start decorating, labeling cubbies, organizing, etc. AND if we block, we have to meet with our teaching partners to synchronize our procedures. It is quite time consuming and absolutely mentally, and physically exhausting. We know this must be

	done, so we cut our summers short and "donate" our services. We don't have the same needs as secondary teachers, but we have the same schedule. Any form of relief would be welcomed!
56	Due to the loss of some trailers, we lost a science lab and music is now on a cart. The one trailer we were allowed to keep had to be moved to a different location on campus. Therefore, those teachers could not set up their classrooms until just a few days prior to school and without air conditioning.
57	School should start after Labor Day.
58	It is hard for CD teachers to get ready for the first day of school when part of their workday must be given up for dial 3 screenings and they are expected to drop everything to screen a child when they walk in the door at anytime.
59	Teachers need to be allowed to work in their classrooms several, uninterrupted days, prior to meetings and professional dev. Teachers have to come in on their summer days off in order to get everything ready for the start of school. The first day being a half day would also give teachers time to do all the "busy" work that must be done for organization and for a successful year.
60	The IGPro sessions were extremely tense. It is ALOT to learn in a short period of time and I am not sure we all learned it very well on the day before school. The meet and greet evenings are not well planned by being on the evening before the 1st day of school. Monday was an extremely stressful day and way too long. The meetings we had were lengthy and not clearly directed. I felt alot of time was wasted due to a lack of clear leadership. All this aside, I do feel that administration did a great job cooperating with our faculty to get the year started. They worked so hard and I appreciated having things I needed addressed so readily.
61	Coherent curriculum training was efficiently administered. My principal respects my time.
62	i needed the workdays and enjoyed it, plus the prof. deve. from the school was relavant to our PBS behavioral system.
63	It would be so much more beneficial to have more workdays and less in-service days at the start of the year, especially for elementary teachers. We have to do so much more to set up our classrooms than upper level teachers.
64	9th grade orientation took up 6 hours of a work day...more time is needed to work in classrooms
65	There is no way we can get our rooms ready in two days. I spent at least 4 days prior to the work days working in my room. At the very least, three work days shoudl be provided. Two for "decorating" and one for planning and meetings that aren't monopolized by people outside of our school.
66	A Wednesday or Thursday start would be even better!
67	teachers can not issue textbooks because principal has not barcoded and scanned them
68	I would have liked the opportunity to pick up my coherent curriculum books before school started (even without having "training" on how to use them). It would have been nice to have some extra time to get familiar with the standards. (I really like the new format and think that it will be very useful! Thanks)
69	I had to put in more than 8 hours a day to make my room ready for my students...on our workdays, I was there about 12 hours per day or more. Couldn't have been ready without doing that. Yes, I was ready, but not in their timeframe. Teachers give a lot of their "free time" to the district. They often treat us like we'll all take off if they didn't schedule all the workshops. They should give us more credit...if you're a teacher, you're usually a super dedicated person not a slacker!
70	The main problem at our school was the fact that the cleaning crew did not get the building ready until Monday night. We had to work around the mess of unpolished floors, dirty carpets, and classroom furniture piled in halls ways and common areas. It made getting a classroom organized for the first day very, very, hard. It would be helpful if the cleanup could be finished the week BEFORE teachers were scheduled to come in.
71	The rules and reg's with respect to being rif'd, Cobra, hired, and then refund the district is a violation against fair trade laws. All I heard at the teacher development meetings from Admin was a ? Why would teachers leave the school or district? Well, when you've move from a state that has a union or treats employees better, you naturally look for a better job. Case closed.
72	Supplies should be available to teachers during the summer months
73	Students should start school on a Thursday.
74	I am less prepared because I have a severely autistic child in my classroom, and NO training in teaching children with autism. He is precious, but a distraction for myself and the other 22 students in my room. I am not convinced we are all better served in this situation.
75	Please seek objective information from teachers about curriculum changes/expectations before making changes with mandated teacher compliance. Teachers work with a wide variety of student abilities and therefore build a knowlegeable foundation of what good teaching practices for their students are in a variety of content areas.
76	Office of Exceptional Children staff are not included in school based information. We often miss out on information distributed to teachers in a school. The OEC did not send out mailings/emails regarding service provider assignments or first day expectations.
77	Our administrators were very helpful and as prepared as possible at the start of school. The cleaning crew (primarily those in charge of waxing the floors) did not complete their work on time which delayed teachers getting into their rooms.
	I would like to congratulate the technology office for having the student logins ready by Tuesday. All passwords were reset to school and an email was sent to us notifying us of the log in status. This was a tremendous improvement over last year.

78	If there is any improvement to be made next year we would like to know before the teacher workdays - we do short training and prepare handouts for teachers during those days. eChalk was not ready- and teacher are impatient to use eChalk the first week because that is where they post their assignments.
79	Start school on Monday!!!
80	Our school seems to be the last one cleaned every year. This causes teachers to wait to begin on their room. All schools need to be cleaned by the end of July so teachers can get in their rooms. By the way, I dusted and vacuumed my class room. You can't set up a room in 2 days. I start 2 weeks before students arrive.
81	It is unfair to have to have special needs children assimilate to the classroom on teacher work days. It makes it very difficult to set up the room and prepare for kindergarten parent orientation with a child and several other adults milling around a room (from 8am to 1 pm Fri. and Mon.) that has not been set up. Also, holding long IEP meetings on those days is unacceptable.
82	I am overwhelmed with the changes that were mandated about lesson plans, being on the same page as a grade level, and struggling to comply. It requires me to keep "two sets of books"==lesson plans on the computer and my real lesson plans in a lesson plan book. This is VERY time consuming but necessary due to what I think is an effort to "look perfect" at the surface level. I feel so constricted and confined that I am considering retiring after this year,
83	Part of my Monday work day was used as fact and fee day to meet parents and students. Even though meeting parents is important, getting my classroom ready is too. I took hours of work home to compensate for the time I used to meet parents. Could this meet and greet be a part of professional development instead?
84	Teachers have to donate more and more time of their own to prepare their classroom for the school year. Two days is not enough. School are not clean on time and getting into classrooms is becoming more of a problem. Some schools were not ready for open houses because cleaning crews did not do their jobs in a timely fashion. Their also has to be better planning of classes and training in the summer. All teachers cannot be expected to go to all off these sessions during the school year. If it is that important then pay the teachers in the summer to go to trainings.
85	Are all programs in the districts schools approved by the district? Such as a course taken before CP PHYSICAL SCIENCE that prepares student for CP PHYSICAL SCIENCE. IF so, where is the Course Description, Coherent Curriculum Guide, the approved textbooks, and sequence of courses that should be taken after completion . In other words what options does that student have after passing (???) CP Physical Science in the following year. Do these students get full credit for the first course...etc. Is this kind of pre- course approved by the SC SDE?
86	I'm spending so much time on administrative schedules and getting myself organized that I don't have time for lesson plans that I would like to have.
87	Our new Principal truly made all staff feel welcomed. He "rolled up his sleeves" and was there for all!!!!!!!
88	school was in disaray. limited internet access, power failure on first PD day. interent has not been restored in related arts building. classroom teachers still do not have textbooks. copiers are frequently broken. the bus situation is a debacle-- late arrivals and ALL buses not being dismissed until after 4pm. out of class routines such as duty stations and the bell schedule are not being enforced. the new principal is nonexistent in the halls... she is frequently in her office with door shut and "do not disturb" sign posted... e-mails to new principal are not returned... ever. expectations from administration are conveyed (kind of) but not enforced. related arts classes are pushing 40 students in each class. my school has taken a downward turn since our principal from last year left. i am concerned that we will lose many of our best teachers b/c of this start, but i do not foresee the District doing anything b/c District 2 is more concerned with image and pleasing parents than they are about what teachers think and the day to day functions of a school. also, the Cario search committee eliminated our new principal several times only to be continually over-ruled. it's amazing that the District has not asked questions about why there is so much turnover in Mt. P schools when, in theory, there should be the least turnover there. if the District really cared what teachers think, they would not have changed the school calander a couple years ago and, in such a data driven district, they would have noticed the large turnover rate at Cario and asked questions... but here we are.
89	1. Please provide some air conditioned time for us to work in our rooms over the summer. 2. I would prefer to start on a Wednesday for the first week of school. It gives us enough time to meet and grasp our students needs, and then we can effectively use the weekend for the following week without sheer exhaustion.
90	Brentwood was extremely unorganized and unprepared to begin the school year. This is still going on a week after school has begun.
91	I am extremely disappointed in our administration. Due to their lack of preparation it has been the worst opening of a school year in 7 years. No excuses could justify the situation we are in. Teachers don't have books, little to no communication with staff, no discipline plan set up, not fully staffed and more that are unexceptable for our students.
92	The administration had "Meet the Teacher" from 8:30-12:00 on one of the workdays. This drastically cut into time to work uninterrupted in our classrooms.
93	We need more early release days. Most school districts have early release at least once a month.
94	Our teachers were able to do an incredible amount to have our school ready as we just finished demolition on one wing of our building and recently had the portables installed. I am very impressed with the timeliness of this portion of the building process. I feel that a Wednesday start would be preferable to a Tuesday start. Even better than that, I think it would be much better to begin

	school after Labor Day.
95	It would be nice not to have to spend time every year re-assembling the classroom after taking it apart for the eight coats of wax four times-a-year treatment. So what if the kids can't read? At least they can see themselves in the floors. Believe it or not, in other parts of the developed world, floors get by with a once-a-year buffing that works AROUND the teacher's set-up. But hey, I mean, if a child wants to move a bookcase and see his reflection under it, that's reasonable I guess. And why shortchange our kids when it comes to chemical fumes? Here's a tip CCSD: somebody google the term "offgassing".
96	District professional development has become very stale. The same things are presented every year with very little new material. I don't know what to suggest, but somehow new things need to be presented to better help us meet the needs of our students.
97	I had to combine my classroom with another teacher's classroom. There was no one to help us move an enormous amount of furniture, books, materials, etc. This moving took several days and many things are still packed and not ready for student use. Any time a teacher must move, there should be assistance provided.
98	Due to summer school and building cleaning schedules, we were not allowed into our building until Aug. 13. This left us with very little time to get rooms and curriculum ready and it showed. We need more teacher work time in order to make the school year a successful one.
99	The school-based PD was SOOOOO much better than having to run all over the district to this workshop or that. It was tailored specifically to what we needed.
100	Class sizes are too large to meet the individual needs of the students. This must be addressed. Our numbers continue to increase while our funding decreases. The number of mainstreamed students with emotional or family problems also continues to increase, yet we have less support in the classroom. Where is the training and support to help us make these children successful? How can we teach the rest of the class when there are so many behavioral problems?
101	How about a Wed or Thursday start date?
102	We did not have student rosters until the afternoon of the first day. "Come on in and I'll check your schedule to see if you are supposed to be in my class!"
103	Still wasting money taking teachers on buses to North Charleston. At least the speaker got to line his pockets. Entertaining, yes. Helpful, NO.
104	at the new teacher orientation for districts four and ten, several inappropriate remarks were made to the group by the associate superintendent, referring to high s.e.s. parents from kiawah and seabrook as "the filthy rich." these remarks were unprofessional and highly offensive to many of us, and we are sure that had those remarks been attributed to a teacher, punitive action would have been initiated by this same person. given the hypersensitivity that has become the norm, we expect that all groups will receive the same level of respect. there are no exceptions.
105	Rolls were not released until the day before school. I had no chance to write to perspective parents. At least a bweek would have been better. I don't know of any teacher in primary grades that can get their rooms ready in 2 days. Information on the start of school was sent to me a week before school started. I think that is too late.
106	A Wednesday start would be best for everyone, though Tuesday is much better than Monday!
107	beginning of school with students went fine.
108	smooth I like the new curriculum guides.
109	Poor building conditions, technology equipment either missing or not functioning, courses offered without ordering textbooks.
110	Scheduling here has been a nightmare - there are still ongoing issues with student schedules
111	All professional development should be school based and run by departments if the coherent curriculum is truly a priority.
112	There is a difference between new teachers and new to the county and I believe they do not need the same pep talks.
113	I love the new coherent curriculum books! very organized and efficient. they are also user-friendly. I liked the electronic version last year, but this is more convenient. Thank you!
114	We need more time at the beginning of the year to prepare our rooms. There is a lot to do, especially in elementary school.
115	Teachers need more than a day to set a classroom up. It's like moving every year and unpacking, which is hard to do in a day, or two.
116	I had five days of meetings and one day of preparation.
117	Getting off on the right foot was hard when we go the class rolls on Friday at 1:50pm. Parents came for Meet the Teacher at 2pm.
118	A very smooth start. Most students had accurate schedules, buses ran well.
119	Our new principal is working very hard to learn the job of a middle school principal. We will have some growing pains for a while but hopefully things will level off shortly.
	CCSD and the entire community needs to make a valiant effort next August to ensure that all students come to school on the first

120	day. It was tragic to hear that 3,500 students were "no shows." This group will be potential "drop outs," and we must reverse this trend. Whether we have a "luncheon feast," prizes, the media, etc., all at schools with low first days turnout, or whatever, we need to solve this problem.
121	The Freshmen Orientation Program has been very successful for the students, but at the detriment to the teachers. The orientation takes place on one of only two teacher work days and involves a large percentage of our faculty who must have their rooms and materials completely ready BEFORE the freshman arrive.... when the preceding days are full of professional development activities. While this is unfair for all teachers, it is especially cruel to new teachers who need MORE time than allotted on the district calendar to have things prepared for the first days of school. To take away another day that is supposed to be devoted to this purpose is cruel. This simply adds another level of frustration for new teachers that is unnecessary. The orientation should take place BEFORE our official start begins - and pay those teachers directly involved - or should happen during the evening hours - with comp time provided for those directly involved. My understanding was that there was a directive in place from the Superintendent's office that teacher workdays are to be UNENCUMBERED time to prepare... this is NOT what happened at West Ashley High School. If special permission was granted - by the Superintendent - for a workday to be utilized for another purpose why were teachers not made aware of this?? While I fully support the administration of this school, this is one area where I feel that those who do not have daily responsibilities in the classroom have forgotten what is like to be "in the trenches" and the amount of time and energy that needs to be devoted to preparation at the beginning of each school year.
122	Our department requested our floors to be "completed" and finished with proper stain or surface. We have requested this since the school opened. The contractors used the wrong paint and didn't seal the concrete cracks. Our walls looked great!!
123	More teacher workdays at the beginning of the year. In house professional development is much more effective than district wide. We all have individual needs.
124	I do not feel as though it is fair to pressure teachers to attend summer meetings when there is no compensation.I felt as though I had no choice to attend four days of trainings/meetings at my school.
125	At James Island High School we had one speaker for 1 hour on Monday, August 20. The rest of the time, we mostly worked in our rooms, except for one 1/2 day to review procedures.
126	For new teachers, there was way too much training at the beginning of the year and not enough time for them to be in their classrooms setting up. I felt this added to the stress of being a first year teacher. Maybe next year, they will allow teachers to get in their classrooms earlier (if they choose to) and will not schedule trainings those same days.
127	Either a Thursday start or a half-day opening (as opposed to two half-day closings) would be preferable.
128	We did not get our rosters until the afternoon before the day school started leaving us in our department not prepared with our own paperwork
129	Special ed assistants should not be taken out of their classrooms on workdays to attend inservices. teachers need that time with them to plan and organize.
130	Changes in programs, materials, and organization caused the problems we had this year
131	This was the most unorganized start of school in all my years of teaching (almost 20) due to guidance and administration, i.e., schedules, rosters, books (or lack of books as of week 2). We have more paperwork than ever...bus rider info. to enter into SASI, etc.
132	I think the administration should develop lessons learned, both good and bad, about the first two weeks of school to better prepare for next year. You should begin now to address and correct those items that did not go as well as you would have like so that you are better prepared next year. Too much valuable class time was wasted this year just getting schedules right.
133	SOA is off to a great start with Mrs.Caldwell at the helm. We're glad to have Mr. Davis back. Life is good.
134	With a new administrator and limited time, there were more challenges. Things went surprisingly well, all things considered. Our administrator worked very hard to fill the gaps and get things going.
135	Our school year is off to a great start. Due to construction some things were out of our personal staff control here on campus.
136	I would rather school start on a Wednesday.... The kindergarteners have a hard time with almost a full week the first week. They need to get used to getting into a schedule so a wednesday start would benefit them and myself.
137	The start of this year was smooth. Teachers had CHAMPS training, and everybody started off on the same expectations where classroom management is concerned. Also PBIS is a plus.
138	Our school was/is dirty. Repairs were not completed.
139	Our school did not have air conditioning in many rooms the beginning of the year. Our classes were combined or moved to other locations- the teachers and assistants had to move all furniture,boxes,everything on their own. It was 98 degrees and 50year old women were lugging boxes. Then we were not given time to plan -we were required to attend meetings. Many staff stayed until very late in the evenings and on the weekends.
140	I think we have had a very professional and organized start for the school year.
	Air conditioning in my classroom still does not work. This was a problem last year and was never resolved. Temperatures during

141	the first week of classes this year have been 82-88 degrees. This is totally unacceptable. As of today, 8/28/07 repairs have not been made. In addition, SASI has not been available during the first week, making our jobs more difficult. This has resulted in misplacement of students in classes where they have not completed prerequisite course and general chaos. I don't understand how we can have a slogan of 'Failure is not an option' when we begin the year like this. HELP!
142	Teacher coaches are no more qualified to give professional development than the man on the moon. Anyone can read from a script.
143	Please no meetings on workdays. We had lengthy department meetings and faculty meetings.
144	Allow new teachers to be in their schools during the first few weeks of school rather than at WAHS and the central office.
145	August 15th is too early. We needed to start the following week and then count the 190 days. I think people were still on vacation. The counts are too valuable to miss anyone. Other states do not start that early. Many people were organizing reunions that may not have allowed our students to be at school.
146	At least one more day as teacher workday to be in classroom and prepare lesson plans
147	After 10 days in the classroom, my air conditioning is not working. It seems to be a problem in many classrooms at this school. Also, there appears to be a paper shortage at this school?
148	I liked the Wed. start to school. It gave children a time to adjust and parents time to get supplies if necessary.
149	Teaching is not a 9 month, 7 to 3 job. No teacher may adequately prepare for a new year, new students, and a fresh approach to curriculum by keeping to the timeframe est. by contracts. Experienced teachers know this; however, new teachers must have more time to get ready.
150	The start of school was rough for me as a new teacher because I had to attend district mandated employee training on my work day which also coincided with freshmen orientation that my school scheduled on what was supposed to be a teacher work day for us all. Other new teachers were assigned dates for employee orientation during new teacher orientation AND district mandated professional development. I think it is very poor planning that these dates were used as required employee orientation days when they were already important functions that we also were supposed to be at. I was very disappointed that I lost out on a teacher work day to go downtown and it definitely affected my level of preparedness for the first day of school. I think that the district should try to pay better attention to the dates it is using to schedule different mandatory meetings for new teachers!
151	Computer Lab is still not up and running to full capacity because many valuable programs were wiped off our computers. Ask the Lab Teacher at HVES. No word programs--Server has been down every time I go in lab to check my e-mail. Have to do everything from Home. Kids arrive at 7:15 am--I help out at car duty till after 3:00 everyday. I have to do in-class prep before 7:15 am or after 3:15. I have been putting in 55-60+ hour weeks since before school started. I can't keep up this pace--my husband thinks I've deserted my family!! How many others feel this way. I am seriously thinking of asking the Principal if I can do a part-time share teaching next year--Teaching all day and going home to prepare half the night. I'm exhausted. I know I sound like a complaining disgruntled teacher but I've been doing this for years. The young teachers are really OVERWHELMED. Especially those who go home to their own children and face nightly homework, soccer, etc. Are they aware of this at 75 Calhoun?! We don't even get a lunch break--and our planning time is Core Curriculum meeting time with LEAD Teacher tomorrow. I could go on but enough already. I have some schoolwork to do before I go to bed tonight
152	I teach at Belle Hall and am very satisfied with levels of organization, communication, and cooperation between the staff and administration at my school. I commend the district on the publication of the new curriculum guides. I have taught for over 30 years, just 3 in Charleston, and I appreciate how the district has tried to make the new guides more user-friendly. Keep up the good work!
153	Since I was on of the few teachers returning I was placed in a grade level that I have not taught and I am the lead teacher. This is unrelentingly stressful eventhough I have taught at my school for eight years
154	Starting on Thursday would be much better. It is very hard for children to return for a full week.
155	District Training Pointless!
156	I think that the huge class loads this year for many teachers and light loads for some others reflects improper planning.
157	Superficial improvements were made; scanning of text books still has not happened; replies to e-mails - almost never
158	I am a little confused with the change in the bus number/color system. We received a list of bus numbers to correlate with the colors from last year, prepared materials for the students and then the numbers began to change during the first week. Very confusing for teachers as well as students.
159	The scheduling in my school was done horribly causing the the begining of our school year to be a disaster!!!
160	As stated in a previous question, the start of the school year needs to have at least 4 work days. Inservice days can come later or be no more than 1.
161	My school voted to do 1/2 work day, 1/2 PD day on Wed. and Monday. This was a bad idea, and I would vote against this again.
162	Again, four days of "preparation" is way too many for veteran teachers. I was ready to go in about a day. I spent the rest of my

162	time doing busywork or socializing.
163	Our Asst. Superintendent spoke to us for about 15-20 minutes on one of our workdays. The crew who waxes our floor over the summer always leave our rooms in a huge mess. This takes more of our "protected" workday times to clean and straighten up, or worse, our own time.
164	I would ask that the district's/school administration's best guess as to my rosters be given to me on August 1. It is time consuming to set up SASI and eChalk records. I would rather transfer kids around than have to try to set up the records wholesale while the year is getting underway.
165	Very smooth:)
166	I did not receive my materials until the second week of school. The materials were in the building but were not distributed to the teachers.
167	Due to painting in the classrooms and cleanup, teachers were delayed with moving in at the beginning of school. Finding after school has begun that teachers are expected to stay after school until 5:15 several days a week, when they may have signed to take graduate courses or like most teachers have committed to a second job. Will the teachers be penalized for this?
168	My classroom still does not have basic equipment that should be in place at the beginning of the year. After 5 years, I still do not have an overhead screen in my classroom. Also, starting the year without an assistant principal lends itself to chaos and confusion. If not for the highly efficient faculty here, the school year's opening would have been disastrous.
169	It was really helpful to have a work day the day before students started school.
170	I did not feel that the work days were able to be used appropriately.
171	School is still very dirty. The only thing accomplished this summer was waxing the floors. Restrooms were given the quick once over when they needed a deep cleaning. Walls are filthy. Some teachers voluntarily painted the hallways and their classrooms due to embarrassment. Parents painted and spiffed up the front office. Large cobwebs and spiders were all over the outside of the school building. Please help us get a cleaning/maintenance crew trained on proper cleaning and held accountable for work. Please also take care of them by leaving the air conditioning on in the building until their shifts are over. All workers can be more efficient when comfortable.
172	No comment.
173	I am a new hire, so some of the previous questions were difficult to answer. Most of the professional development was worthwhile in some way, though being a specialized teacher, much of the information given was not very useful. The employee orientation was not well-organized; there was a lot of wasted time. I don't believe I obtained the information I wanted to know (or not enough) about the school district or the benefits packages. I think that orientation could have been much more useful.
174	It is impossible to expect teachers to be prepared for parents to walk into their classrooms after two days. The two days are always filled with meetings and I came in over the weekend. I believe the District needs to realistically look at the days that teachers need to be in their classroom and decide that they do not need to be professional days at all. We are professionals and need to be treated that way.
175	Having an assistant principal seemed to make everything run better this year. I got my supplies before school started!!
176	please allow special educators to be with their inclusion teachers at the beginning of the year. We need to be part of a team
177	I would like for us (WAMS) to start early. Please take this under consideration
178	Fees day for our parents was held on Monday morning from 8-11. When concern was expressed that this was our workday, our principal responded that people at Whitesides care-if you are not ready before that day, then you don't need to be teaching at Whitesides. Teachers are expected to come in during the summer and have their room set up and decorated by the district start date. It is impossible to move furniture back in place, connect computers, decorate, label textbooks and workbooks, coordinate with special education services, plan with gradelevel and coherent curriculum, etc.
179	The more time I have to prepare in my classroom, without the distractions of meetings or so called professional development, the more my classroom and my assistants and me will be prepared.
180	I am having trouble getting books for my Sp. Ed students. I can't go to the upper level people because my principal will make my life hell. As it is right now, my students are doing without certain textbooks and are the ones that are being hurt. Admin claims we are out of books, but will not take the steps, asap for the children, to get them.
181	Our school's Freshman First is a program that allows students to come for a half-day on the day before their first day of school in order to meet their teachers and get to know their schedule. I think that it is a great program, but I was frustrated this year and last year due to this program because we only get two official days in our classrooms - not a lot of time. Due to this program, however, teachers of freshmen only got 1.5 days. I'm at a bit of a loss because I do feel that Freshman First is a great program, but I really feel like I need those two full days in my class BEFORE the kids get there- having freshmen the day before school officially starts is a hassle and seems a bit unfair, to be perfectly honest.
182	I prefer the taped address to the rally.
183	The scheduling of student classes this year was horrible. I am just getting students for one class now after 2 weeks of school

184	Copiers needed to have been serviced over the summer because they did not work properly the first week of school. The problem is still continuing. In June I was informed of an increase in the number of APUSH students but when school began additional books had to be ordered along with workbooks and books could not be distributed the first week.
185	The administration at my school was not prepared for the beginning of school. There was a lack of communication regarding first day/week procedures. We were given important information on the Monday afternoon before students were to report to school the following morning. This information should have been distributed the morning of the first workday, or before. The administration failed the teachers in my school.
186	Media specialists need more than 5 days to prepare for the new years and close for the old year. Please consider adding more days for media specialists.
187	The lack of organization by the administrators was not completely their fault. This is the third time in the seven years I've been at this school that we have started with two new administrators. How are we to teach the children continuity and give them a stable environment when the teachers are given that courtesy. Although there was not a large turnover in a strong staff it is still difficult when new admins. from out of county and state come in and are unsure of the way things work. Disappoint still looms with our faculty that consideration was not given to our concerns that could have helped this situation be avoided and had a more organized start.
188	There were major scheduling problems. Upon the the 10th day, the schedule was still not yet resolved. I had to meet with my team and the guidance team during my planning period and lunch to go over the schedule with only a 10 minute notice. Also, non guidance and principal members of the staff are doing/ did the schedule. This is an issue that I think should be taken care of for the most part before school starts-not during my lunch two weeks in to school.
189	Did not know the course we would be teaching until the second day of the start of school for us.
190	none
191	Scheduling conflicts for incoming 6th graders made the first week unorganized. Too much time was dedicated to fixing scheduling problems that could have been remedied before the first day of school.
192	The start was good. Tuesday was good - Wednesday would be good as well. Just didn't feel like the time before school slotted for work was left to get room ready for students.
193	Keep the beginning like it was this year! Great!
194	Class schedules were not available until Monday, Aug. 20. Grade books could not be set up until after 1:00 on 8/20. Classrooms were not ready for teacher occupancy on 8/15. Rooms had not been cleaned, etc. A large part of my workday was spent cleaning my room - dusting, cleaning the boards, etc. rather than spending time on curricula.
195	Two days is not enough to get a primary elementary classroom ready for the year. My classroom desks and chairs were molded from the AC being cut off during the summer, therefore, I had to have my room cleaned before I could set it up. Our gradelevel had to meet to finalize the first week's schedule. This meeting lasted half of one of the teacher workdays. We were asked to have an instructional calendar ready, which requires meeting time. Teachers need rooms to be clean and ready prior to the first day back. They need to have at least 3-4 days to get rooms ready and have time to plan for the beginning of the year (instructional calendar, field trips for the year, grade-level duties and planning, etc). This is especially necessary for elementary teachers in the primary grades. Please address the air conditioning issue. Many materials are destroyed because the system is turned off during the summer. It was a mess in my room. Thank you for your help.
196	A Tuesday start was great!
197	Thank you for the time to work in our classrooms on Friday and Monday. The presentation at the Performing Arts Center for Districts 10/4 secondary was not as motivating as I expected and we arrived far too early for it. I kept thinking I would rather be in my classroom.
198	The school year at JIES was a huge success. It was organized, inviting, and productive! I was a transfer teacher there this year and the transition was so positive. It was awesome!
199	WE need time built into the schedule to work together.
200	Because of the A/C being cut off, my classroom was full of mold and had to be cleaned by a private co. Money wasted and delayed me in preparing my room. I'm sure the A/C left running is cheaper than this private cleaning co. having to clean every room in this building!!!!