

Exploring a Four-Day School Week Community Forum

Putnam County R-I Schools
January 27, 2022
February 1 & 2, 2022



Welcome
Dr. Heath Halley
Superintendent



Forum Goals

- Inform the community about pros and cons of a four-day school week
- Gather questions and additional input from members of the community



Background

- Missouri School Districts
 - 33 districts attended four days in 2018-2019
 - 120 districts attend four days in 2021-2022
 - 5 schools in our area are currently on a 4-day schedule
 - 2 schools in our area are currently considering
 - Map of Missouri districts
 - HB161 (school start date now restricted)
 - 1,044 hours per year required by statute

Why are we discussing a four-day school week?

- Teacher Retention & Recruitment
 - Staff Survey Results
 - 47% of **Certified Staff** voted YES
 - 54.5% of **Total Staff** voted NO
 - Competing with Area Schools for teacher applicants
 - Scotland County has been 4-day for 2 years
 - Schuyler has been 4-day for 4 years
 - Critical Shortage for teaching positions (lack of qualified applicants)
 - Increased family time for staff
 - work/life balance
 - decreased commutes



Four-Day School Week Information Sheet

What is a four-day school week calendar?

- The four-day school week calendar replaces the traditional five-day school calendar by increasing the minutes in each day, adjusting the length of the school year, and/or adjusting breaks to reach or exceed the Missouri requirement of at least 1,044 hours of student attendance in a school year.

What would a four-day week look like?

- Most districts select Monday as the non-school weekday; this is due to the placement of many holidays on Mondays, and the greater availability of doctors, dentists, and other professionals for appointments. The draft calendars are presented with this option.

What would the calendar look like?

- Mondays or Fridays off
- Built-in Snow Days – go later in May
- Make-Up Snow Days - use Monday or Fridays in the Spring
 - Elimination of Early Out Days prior to breaks
 - Shortened Christmas Break
- Potential change in bus rider pick-up/drop-off times
- Teachers would work 1 Monday a month for Professional Development



Calendars

- Sample Calendars
 - 5-day Calendar (8:15am - 3:25pm) **164 days**
 - Snow Days built in, No School Fair Week
 - 4-day Calendar (8:15am - 3:27pm) **154 days**
 - Snow Days will be made up, Early Outs Fair Week, Shortened Holiday Break
 - 4-day Calendar (8:00am - 3:35pm) **156 days**
 - Snow Days built in, Early Outs Fair Week

What are the Potential Pros and Cons of a four-day school week?

PROS

- Student Attendance
 - Current Attendance average is 90.7%
 - Current Graduation Rate average is 94.1%
 - Flexibility in scheduling short trips and appointments
- Staff Attendance
 - Potential need for fewer subs
- Staff Morale
 - Staff could feel more prepared and have more energy

CONS

- Loss of Instructional Time
 - Varies by calendar and building
- Potentially longer school day
- Potentially longer bus rides
- Food Insecurity
 - 43.86% FRL Rate
- Childcare
 - Licensed childcare facilities full
 - SOAR program
 - Grandparents and Older Siblings



What is the impact on student achievement?

- When staff attendance increases, instructional time is more effective
- Data
 - Surrounding School data is skewed by COVID – patterns are irregular
 - Some studies show that things improve for a short period of time (approximately 2 years), but once the community is adjusted to the new culture, some studies have found that achievement flat lines or decreases



What about food insecurity in our free and reduced student population?

- Potential expansion of the Buddy Pack Program
 - Low participation from the MS and HS kids
- Food Expense Savings
- Reimbursement Revenue Loss
- In other communities, outside groups have helped raise extra funds to supplement the buddy pack program for an additional day each week



Childcare: where will the children go on the day off from school?

- SOAR Program
 - Local childcare facilities
 - Grandparents, family, friends
 - Older Siblings
-
- Make-Up Snow Days Calendar could have 27-36 Mondays off school
 - Built-In Snow Days Calendar could have 32 Mondays off school
 - Other communities have wondered the same but made it work



Athletics & Activities: what happens to practices, events, & games?

- There will still be Athletic and other Activities on Mondays/Fridays
- Sports practices could take place during the day on Mondays/Fridays
 - How will our non-driving students get to practice? Other districts have encountered this and students end up getting a ride with other students, parents, siblings, grandparents, etc



Is there a cost savings to a four-day week? Not what you would think.

- Staff salaries would NOT be reduced if we move to a 4-day week
 - Potential increase in SOAR staff
- Food Expenses
 - Loss of Reimbursement Revenue
- Transportation Expenses
 - Fuel
 - Wear and tear of buses
 - Substitute Driver expenses
 - Sports/Activities trips would still occur
- Utilities Expenses
 - Minimal as some staff would still be in the building on Monday/Fridays



Four-Day School Week

Resource Center

[Interactive Map of Missouri Four-Day Week Districts 2020-2021](#)

[Map of Missouri Four-Day School Week Districts \(Link\)](#). Updated for 2020-2021

[List of Missouri Four-Day School Week Districts With Contact Information](#). (Still draft for 2021-2022 school year)

[Research, News, and Resources on the Four-day Week Topic](#)

Does Four Equal Five? Implementation and Outcomes of the Four-Day School Week by Rebecca Kilburn, Andrea Phillips, Celia Gomez, Louis Mariano, Christopher Doss, Wendy Troxel, Emily Morton, and Kevin Estes. The RAND Corporation. October, 2021.
https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA373-1.html

4-Day School Weeks: New Research Examines the Benefits and Drawbacks by Stephen Sawchuck. Education Week, October 7, 2021.
<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/4-day-school-weeks-new-research-examines-the-benefits-and-drawbacks/2021/10>

Impact of a Four-Day School Week On Student Discipline and Attendance in Missouri: A Quantitative Study by Angelina Rowden. Doctorate Dissertation, Missouri Baptist University, December 2021.
<https://www.proquest.com/openview/7dc8f89fbd99e26669d530142d161e26/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y>

Only a Matter of Time? The Role of Time in School on Four-Day School Week Achievement Impacts by Paul N. Thompson and Jason Ward. IZA Institute of Labor Economics Discussion Paper Series, June 2021. <http://ftp.iza.org/dp14461.pdf>

About 1,570,000,000 results (0.35 seconds)

<https://www.edweek.org> > leadership > 2021/10

4-Day School Weeks: New Research Examines the Benefits ...

Oct 7, 2021 — More than 1600 districts have **4-day** weeks. While students report more time for sleep and hobbies, academics lag, according to a new **study**.

People also ask

Is a four-day school week effective?



Why schools should be 4 days a week?



Why should school have 4 days of school?



How does a 4 day school week improve academic performance?



Feedback

<https://www.brookings.edu> > blog > 2021/07/12 > 4-da...

4-day school weeks: Educational innovation or detriment?

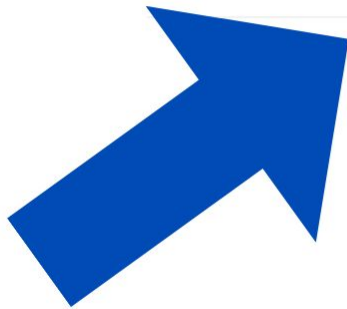
Jul 12, 2021 — National and state-specific **research** finds minimal impacts of the **four-day school week** on overall cost savings, but it suggests that **four-day** ...

<https://www.rand.org> > research_briefs > RBA373-1

Can Four Equal Five? Assessing the Four-Day School Week

Oct 7, 2021 — **Research** Brief. A **four-day school week** (4dsw) is becoming more common, especially in areas across the western United States.

<https://www.ncsl.org> > research > education > school-ca...



Timeline

- Staff & Community Surveys: September 2021
- Staff forums: October–January
- Updates to Board: November–January
- Community Forums: January & February
- Community Forum updates to BOE: February
- Calendar Adoption: March



Research

- Missouri State University
 - Dr. Jon Turner (recently featured on KTVO)
 - Four-Day School Week Newsletters
 - Webinars, videos, and research articles
- Summary of Research
 - Improved ability to recruit and retain qualified staff
 - Academic performance impact findings are mixed
 - Parental support generally strong after implementation
 - Elementary and Special Ed parents favor less

Attendance Comparisons

School	4DSW	Attendance
Albany	(2012)	93.2%
Putnam County	(5-day)	90.7%
Schuyler	(2017)	87.8%
Harrisburg	(2012)	86.1%
Lathrop	(2011)	85.2%
Montgomery County	(2012)	85.2%
Maries County	(2014)	78.7%
Stockton	(2016)	77.6%

*Based on 2020-2021 DESE reporting



Teacher Retention Comparisons

School	4DSW	Teach. Ret. %
Lathrop	(2011)	75.3%
Schuyler	(2017)	72.4%
Montgomery County	(2012)	71.8%
Putnam County	(5-day)	70.2%
Maries County	(2014)	65.1%
Harrisburg	(2012)	64.6%
Albany	(2012)	60.5%
Stockton	(2016)	50.9%

*Based on 2020-2021 DESE reporting



Math Test Score Comparisons

School	4DSW	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Stockton	(2016)	20.5%	33.5%	29.8%	16.2%
Putnam County	(5-day)	17.8%	37.0%	24.8%	20.5%
Lathrop	(2011)	28.8%	35.8%	23.1%	12.2%
Schuyler	(2017)	26.4%	40.0%	24.1%	9.5%
Harrisburg	(2012)	30.4%	36.9%	20.9%	11.8%
Montgomery County	(2012)	33.8%	36.7%	19.8%	9.8%
Maries County	(2014)	32.9%	38.2%	17.6%	11.3%
Albany	(2012)	34.4%	38.3%	18.5%	8.8%

*Test scores are based on 2020-2021 DESE reporting



ELA Test Score Comparisons

School	4DSW	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Stockton	(2016)	10.4%	38.7%	34.9%	16.0%
Putnam County	(5-day)	11.8%	38.5%	36.7%	13.0%
Lathrop	(2011)	14.8%	42.1%	29.9%	13.3%
Schuyler	(2017)	13.5%	43.8%	28.8%	13.9%
Albany	(2012)	16.1%	41.5%	29.0%	13.4%
Montgomery County	(2012)	15.6%	42.2%	26.6%	15.6%
Harrisburg	(2012)	20.1%	38.8%	27.2%	13.9%
Maries County	(2014)	23.4%	37.2%	26.8%	12.5%

*Test scores are based on 2020-2021 DESE reporting



Science Test Score Comparisons

School	4DSW	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Putnam County	(5-day)	10.5%	37.9%	41.1%	10.5%
Schuyler	(2017)	22.7%	33.6%	23.5%	20.2%
Lathrop	(2011)	12.7%	44.1%	30.6%	12.7%
Stockton	(2016)	18.5%	39.7%	27.8%	14.1%
Harrisburg	(2012)	24.3%	37.5%	28.7%	9.6%
Montgomery County	(2012)	29.3%	33.5%	22.6%	14.6%
Maries County	(2014)	35.9%	38.7%	19.3%	6.1%
Albany	(2012)	22.0%	53.9%	****%	****%

*Test scores are based on 2020-2021 DESE reporting



Data Comparisons

School	4DSW	Avg Teach Sal.	K-12#s	Ratio	Grad Rate
Lathrop	(2011)	\$46,262	876	15:1	77.0%
Harrisburg	(2012)	\$43,357	574	16:1	100%
Montgomery County	(2012)	\$41,589	1096	16:1	90.1%
Putnam County	(5-day)	\$40,332	610	18:1	91.7%
Stockton	(2016)	\$39,351	875	13:1	81.4%
Albany	(2012)	\$39,321	421	13:1	100%
Schuyler	(2017)	\$37,345	547	16:1	96.3%
Maries County	(2014)	\$35,841	709	15:1	85.0%

*Based on 2020-2021 DESE reporting



Staff Survey Responses:

Reasons for YES Vote:

- Possible Teacher Retention
- Possible Teacher Recruitment
- Possible Increase in Staff Morale
- Climate/Culture
- Ability to supplement income

Reasons for NO Vote:

- Belief that it is NOT the best thing for students
- Impact on students/families
- Loss of quality instructional time
- Food Insecurity
- Length of School Day
- Childcare



Questions?

