

# Four Day Week Community Meeting

## High School

Tonight, we're sharing information about a potential four-day school week. This presentation is meant to be informational for the community and the School Board.

### Why are we discussing this?

- Large rural district: 560 square miles
- Transportation and staffing challenges
- Two Failed Referendums (2023 and 2025) and declining enrollment.
- Need to remain competitive in recruiting and retaining staff
- Staff and Student Mental Health
- Student and Staff attendance (District Substitutes)

### What is a Four Day Week?

- Students attend school four days per week
- Instructional days are longer.
- State instructional hours. 1020-HS...Elementary-935...Kinder-850
- Most districts use Monday–Thursday schedules

### Potential Financial Impact

A four-day week does **not** solve budget challenges—but it can help: - Reduce transportation costs - Lower utility and operational expenses - Create staffing efficiencies

Data suggests 1% -3 % savings (Approx. \$300,000 annually)

### Impact on Students

- Longer, more focused instructional blocks
- Fewer transitions during the week
- Improved attendance in many districts
- Data suggests little or no impact on academics. For special education students may be at a higher risk of harm unless the district explicitly plans.

### Impact on Staff

- Improved work-life balance
- Increased planning and collaboration time
- Strong recruitment and retention tool

### Impact on Families

- One weekday without school
- More flexibility for appointments and activities
- Childcare considerations acknowledged

## **What would a Four-day week look like in District #317**

- 1) Students would go to school four days per Week...Monday thru Thursday. (Friday Off.)
- 2) Because there is one less day a week, school day is lengthened about 35 Mins. (At the High School each period would be about 7 minutes longer)

School Hours would be:

**King:** 8:15am-3:30pm

**H.S.:** 8:10am-3:35pm

- 3) What would Friday look like?

- No Transportation
- Boys and Girls club would be available.
- Paid Family use childcare would still be available.
- No More "Early Out" Wednesdays. (Teachers would meet one Friday a month)
- Activities: HS Practice time would be limited. NO JH Activities.

- 4) Meals: For families/students who were interested, a meal would be available to take home on Thursdays.

## Deer River Four Day week Survey Results

(Standard Deviation of results is +/-4.5)

### *Who has responded so far?*

Parent/Guardian of a current student	219 (38%)
Students	177 (30%)
Community Member	66 (11%)
Staff Members	94 (16%)
Other	<u>28 (5%)</u>
<b>Total Responses:</b>	584

### *Overall, how do you feel about Deer River School District potentially moving to a 4 Day Week.*

Strongly Support. 255 (45%)	Somewhat Support. 174 (31%)
Somewhat Oppose 61 (11%)	Strongly Oppose 79 (14%)

### **Breakdown by Groups:**

	<u>Students'</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Community</u>
Strongly Support	42% /75	43% /96	45% /51	44% /28
Somewhat support	35% /63	30% /68	27% /26	25% /16
Somewhat Oppose	10% /18	19% /23	9% /9	19% /12
Strongly Oppose	12% /21	17% /37	9% /9	13% /8

***If Deer River School District moved to the proposed 4Day Week, what would you most likely do?***

Keep My Children enrolled 134 (73%)

Consider Leaving 17 (9%)

Definitely leave 8 (4%)

Unsure/Need More Information 23 (13%)

***Reported out in the survey results:***

Here are the **top four concerns** about Four Day Week:

- 1. Student Fatigue, Behavior, and Academic Impact**
- 2. Childcare and Supervision Challenges**
- 3. Food Insecurity and Loss of Student Supports**
- 4. Financial and Logistical Strain on Families and Programs**

**Top four benefits** of Four Day Week.

- 1. Improved Mental Health and Well-Being**
- 2. Increased Family Time and Flexibility**
- 3. Improved Attendance and Reduced Absences**
- 4. Potential Cost Savings and Improved Teacher Retention**

***The district is considering moving the 6<sup>th</sup> grade back to King Elementary. How to you feel about this decision?***

I would support Moving sixth grade 160 (82%)

I would not support 11 (6%)

