

## 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 Reponses:</b>	<b>584</b>

### *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%)



# DEER RIVER SCHOOLS

HOPE • HAPPINESS • SUCCESS  
BAGOSENDAM • MINWAANIGOZI • GASHKITOON

## Colored Key:

<span style="background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	First/Last Day of School
<span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	No School Teacher Workshop
<span style="background-color: pink; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	No School Fridays
<span style="background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	Holidays – No School
<span style="background-color: red; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	Last day of the Quarter

## 2026 / 2027 Student Calendar

August				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

September				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

## Calendar Dates

August	
24-27	Teacher Workshop
30	First day of School
September	
7	Labor Day
4, 18, 25	No School Fridays

October				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

November				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

October	
2, 9, 23, 30	No School Fridays
15, 16	MEA
November	
5	End of Q1
6	Teacher Workshop
13, 20	No School Fridays
26, 27	Thanksgiving Break

December				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

January				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

December	
4, 11, 18	No School Fridays
21-31	Christmas Break
January	
1	New Year's Day
8, 15, 29	No School Fridays
20	End of Q2
22	Teacher Workshop

February				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

March				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

February	
5, 12, 26	No School Fridays
15	Presidents' Day
March	
5, 12, 19	No School Fridays
24	End of Q3
25	Teacher Workshop
26, 29	Spring Break

April				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

May				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

April	
19, 16, 23, 30	No School Fridays
May	
7, 14, 21	No School Fridays
27	Last Day of School
28	Teacher Workshop