

Dear Parents/Guardians:

One of the current trends that seems to be gaining momentum is the use of a 4-day school week for public schools. Locally we are starting to see area schools either beginning to use this model or they are researching it. The Linn Co. R-1 School District would like your input as we look at this being a possibility for our school district.

There are many things to consider during this process and a few of the main topics will include: student achievement (not simply standardized tests but other relevant data), student attendance, staff retention, staff recruitment, etc... We will not be looking at this issue on the sole basis of a cost savings for the district, but it will have positive factors in current and future budgets. Our focus will be on students and if a 4-day school week will allow them to continue to achieve at a high level.

Surveys will be emailed out to each household with students currently enrolled in grades PK-11. A similar survey will also be given to students as well as certified and non-certified staff. The surveys will simply allow the school to look at the data and survey results to drive the decision.

As with any new endeavor, people may have thoughts, concerns or ideas they would like to share. If you should have any questions at any time, please do not hesitate to call or come by the school. I will be more than happy to answer any questions that anyone may have. Feel free to contact me at 660-244-5045 or email me at rlivingston@linnr1.k12.mo.us to share your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Ryan Livingston
Superintendent, Linn Co. R-I School District

4-Day School Week Information Sheet

Currently there are 33 schools in the state of Missouri on a 4-day school week.

What is the 4-day school week calendar?

- Option which replaces the traditional five-day school calendar by slightly increasing the minutes in each day to accumulate the (DESE) requirement of 1044 hours in a school year.

Why would the Linn Co. R-I School District consider a 4-day school week calendar?

- Retain and hire quality teachers.
- Enhance the quality of instruction & student engagement.
- A four-day week provides flexibility in the event of weather-related school cancellation; make-up days would be made up earlier in the year when learning is most effective and before mandated state testing.
- Secondary students would be able to work, job shadow, or take college visits on Mondays.

Would a 4-day school week create a child care problem for our parents?

- Current districts implementing a 4-day week have not found this to be an issue. Most indicated they initially had the same concerns, however, after implementation it simply turned out to be a non-issue.
- We currently operate on a calendar that includes 16 weeks that are not full due to early outs, teacher in-services and holidays. So most parents are already dealing with this issue on a smaller scale.
- Staff attendance increases; therefore, instructional time may be more effective for students. Student attendance increases due to the availability on Mondays for appointments, etc. Therefore, instruction time is increased for students. Higher student attendance is directly related to higher student achievement.

What are additional possible benefits other than hiring and retaining quality staff?

- Anticipated increase in student attendance rate. This schedule gives families more flexibility in scheduling vacations and appointments for students.
- 4-day schools have indicated that students seem to prefer the 4-day week as it allows more time for working at their jobs.
- This schedule would eliminate nearly all early out days.

What would a 4-day week look like?

- Monday is typically the day schools take off as those are the days for most Holidays.
- At least one Monday per month would be for professional development (staff only).
- Parent/Teacher conferences would be on a Monday.
- Students attending Grand River Vo-Tech would still attend classes on Mondays.
- Athletic events would still occur on Mondays. Practice times would be at the discretion of the coach and what they feel is best for their teams.

What would a 4-day calendar and school times look like?

- Schools that currently use a 4-day calendar may run 1-2 weeks longer.
- Approximate time of school each day would be 8:00 a.m.-3:50 p.m.

How will the district make this decision and what is the timeline?

- The district will attempt to gather a consensus and make a recommendation by February in order to plan and adopt next year's school calendar in a timely manner.