

4 Day School Week



Survey Data, Compiled Research Findings, Advantages, and
Disadvantages for the West Bonner County School District #83

Idaho Yearly Instructional Hours Requirements

Kindergarten	450 hours
1st through 3rd	810 hours
4th through 8th	900 hours
9th through 12th	990 hours

How can Instructional Hours be “Made Up” with Lost Days?

1. Lengthen the school day
2. Lengthen the school year
3. A combination of both

Example (using high school requirements, since they are the highest)

The average instructional time in a “regular school” day is 6 hours.

To reach 990 instructional hours, school must be in session for 165 days (minimum).

On a 4 day week, if the school day is increased to 7 hours, only 142 days of school are needed to reach 990 instructional hours.

This could vary greatly depending on how many days of school or hours each day a school decided upon.

Compiled National and Idaho Research

1. All the research finds similar results
2. Our survey data mirrors research data regarding concerns and benefits of the 4 day school week

Research Data Disadvantages

1. Potential for increased achievement gap for at-risk and special education students
2. Taxing to younger students (may need naps and snacks)
3. Potential need for reteaching time after longer weekend
4. Teachers and students feeling tired towards end of day
5. When students miss a day of school, they miss more learning opportunities
6. Loss of instructional time per subject at secondary level
7. Food insecurity for students relying on school for food
8. Success of students and staff hinges on the QUALITY and structure of the 5th day teacher days
9. Friday child care

Research Data Advantages

1. Cost savings in:
 - a. Substitute pay
 - b. Transportation costs
 - c. Maintenance from wear and tear on buildings
2. Fewer missed student and teacher days for appointments, etc
3. Effective time for teacher collaboration and professional development
4. Increased morale
5. More directed and efficient instruction (less “wasted” time)
6. Available labor force on Fridays for local businesses (high school students)
7. Fewer day care hours needed on Monday-Thursday
8. Fewer “latch-key” kids

Research data on Student Achievement

THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT BETWEEN SCHOOLS ON A 5 DAY OR 4 DAY SCHEDULE

1. Some schools do better
2. Some schools do worse
3. Schools that change from 5 day to 4 day may notice a positive or negative effect initially, but it typically returns to pre-change levels within a few years

No negative impact is linked to the number of days of school attends in a week.

The research suggests that HOW the school functions on the 4 day week is the biggest impact on student achievement.

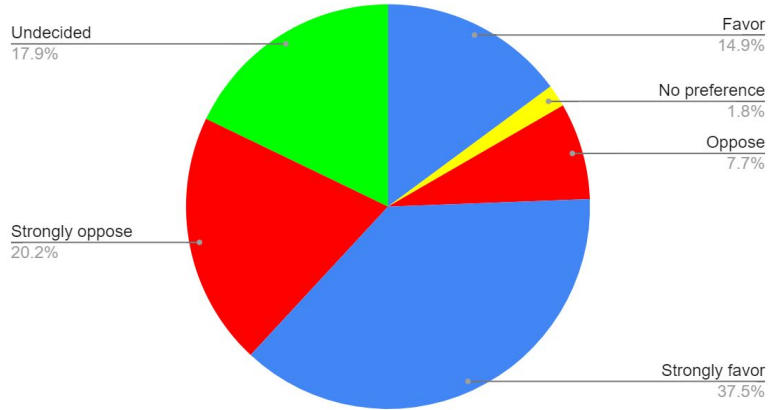
(unfortunately, the variations from school to school make it difficult to determine the “HOW” for each school)

Overall Survey Data

1. Responses
 - a. 247 total responses
 - b. 168 Parents (68% of total responses)
 - c. 73 Staff (29.6% of total responses)
 - d. 5 Community members (2% of total responses)
 - e. 1 Student (0.4% of total responses)
2. 90% of responses were familiar with the advantages and disadvantages of the 4 day school week
3. 55% of the responses were in favor of moving to a 4 day school week
4. 25.9% of the responses were against moving to a 4 day school week
5. 17% of the responses were undecided about moving to a 4 day school week
6. 2% of the responses had no preference about moving to the 4 day school week
7. 50.2% of responses had “Length of school day” as their greatest concern
8. Due to lack of participation numbers, I did not include Community or Student responses in future data

Survey Data: For or Against 4 Day Week

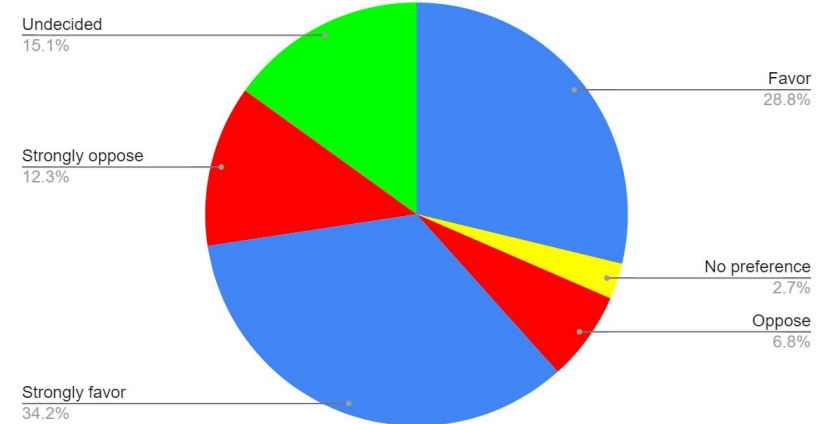
PARENTS: FOR OR AGAINST 4 DAY WEEK



For= 52.4%

Oppose=27.9%

STAFF: FOR OR AGAINST 4 DAY WEEK

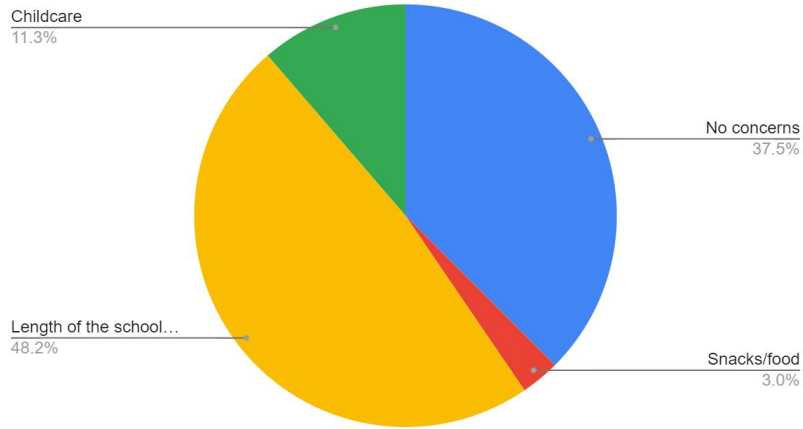


For=63%

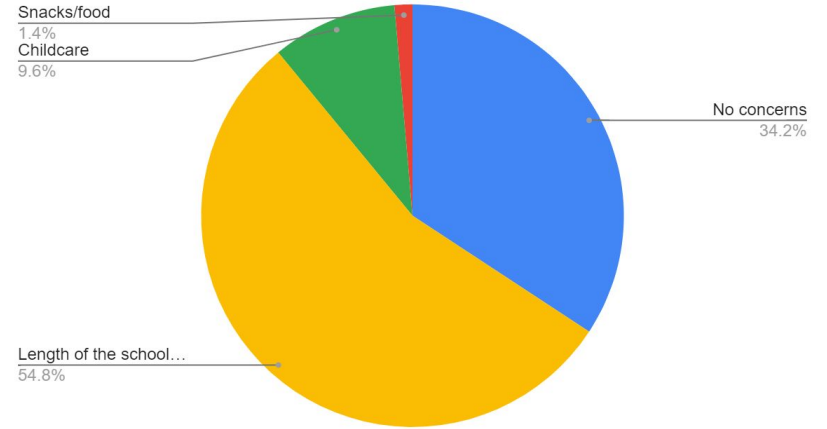
Oppose=19.1%

Survey Data: Concerns

PARENT CONCERNS WITH 4 DAY WEEK

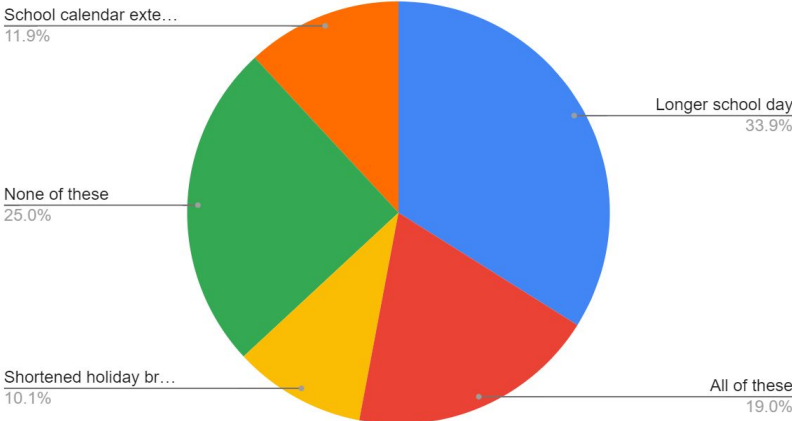


STAFF CONCERNS WITH 4 DAY WEEK

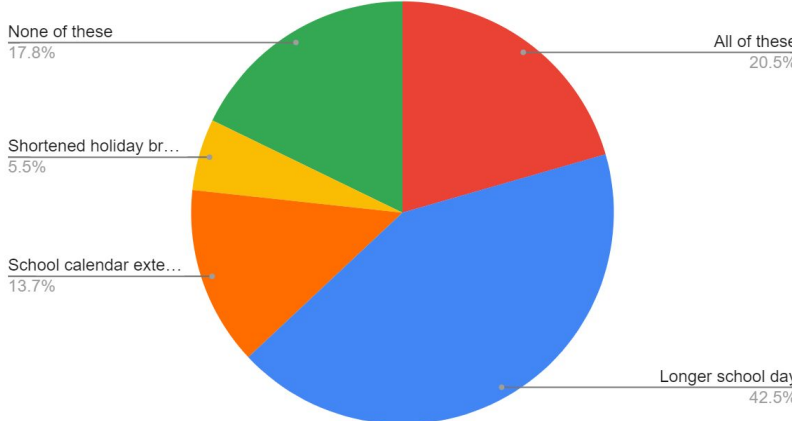


Survey Data: Willing to Accept if 4 Day Week

Parent: Willing to Accept

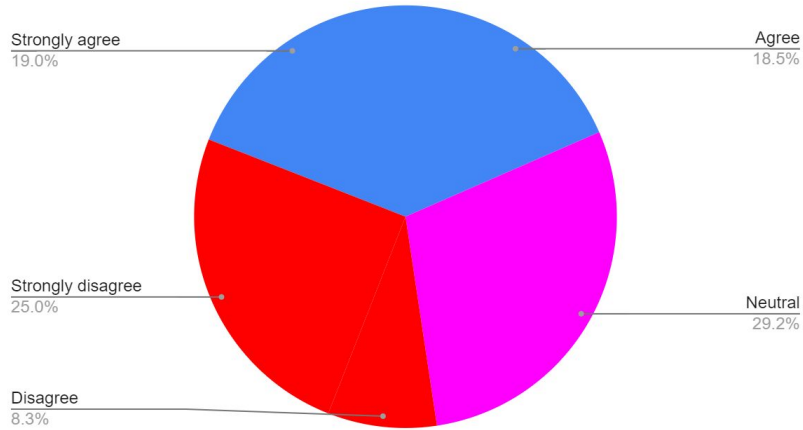


Staff: Willing to Accept



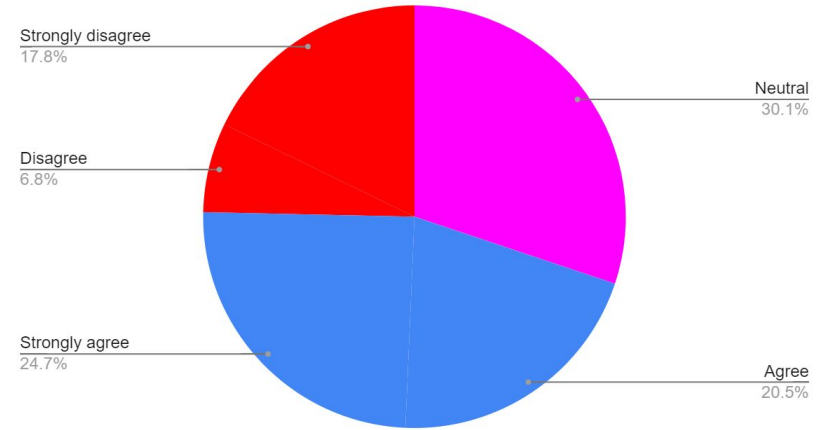
Survey Data: Positive Impact on Family?

Parents: Positive Impact on My Family



Agree=37.5% Neutral=29.2% Disagree=33.3%

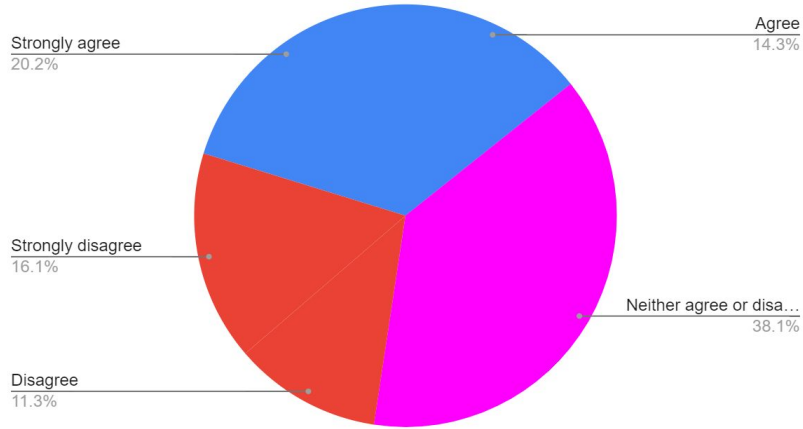
Staff: Positive Impact on My Family



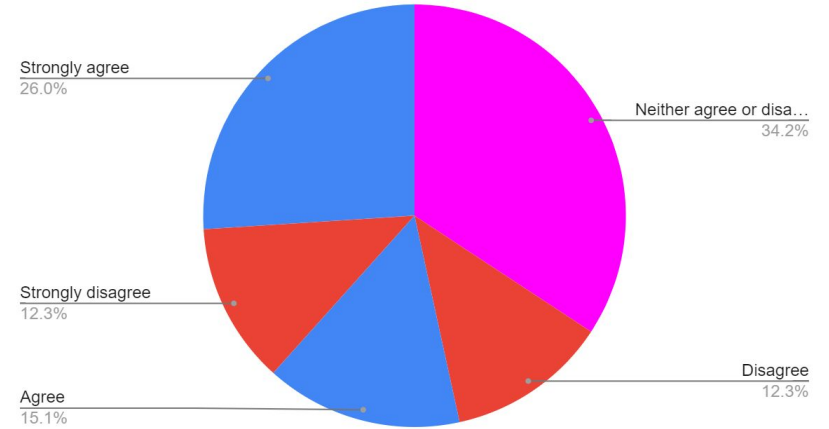
Agree=45.2% Neutral= 30.1% Disagree=24.6%

Survey Data: Will 4 Day Week Improve Student Attendance?

Parents: Will 4 Day Week Improve Student Attendance

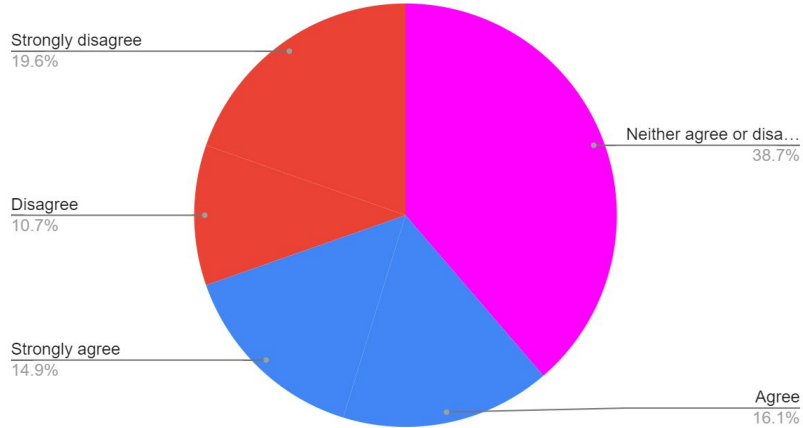


Staff: Will 4 Day Week Improve Student Attendance

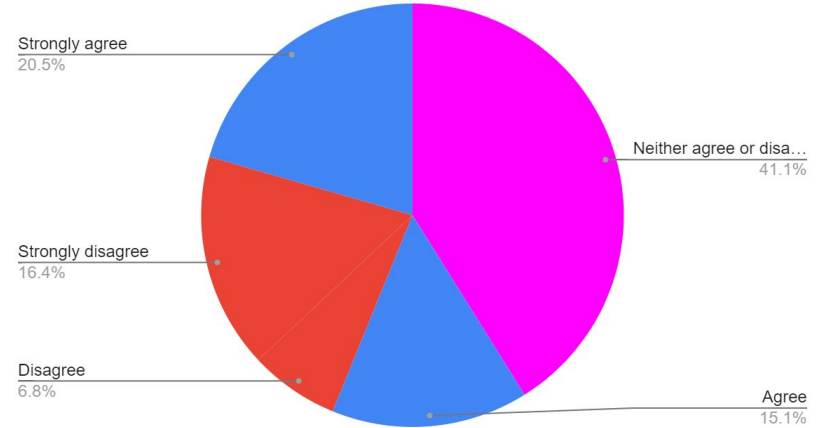


Survey Data: Will 4 Day Week Improve Student Learning?

Parents: Will Improve Student Learning



Staff: Will Improve Student Learning



Survey Data: Number of Times Each Concern Occured in Write-in Responses

Parent Concerns

Length	39
Learning	20
Childcare	18
Holidays/Vacation	6
Pay	5
Food	4
Crime	1

Staff Concerns

Length	14
Learning	16
Childcare	3
Holidays/Vacation	3
Pay	5
Food	4
Misc others	1

Survey Data: Number of Times Each Factor Influencing Decision Occured in Write-in Responses

Parent Factors

Family	41
Length	31
Staffing	18
Childcare	18
Learning	13
School Efficiency	7
Other Schools/Savings	6/6

Staff Factors

Family	14
Length	7
Staffing	10
Childcare	1
Learning	6
School Efficiency	5
Other Schools/Savings	4/6

Conclusions

1. Survey data confirmed the concerns from various research
 - a. Our stakeholders almost matched them perfectly!!
2. We should reach out to other districts to learn more about how they are addressing some of the specific concerns at ALL levels:
 - a. School board
 - b. Superintendent
 - c. Building Principals
3. Survey data confirmed many of the benefits from various research
4. Communication with all stakeholders regarding:
 - a. how the district is addressing concerns would be vital to successfully implementing a 4 day week
 - i. This is also evident in multiple research
 - b. What a 4 day week would look like at each building and the district level
5. Calendar and negotiation considerations should not be forgotten
6. The “HOW” it is done is just as important as the “WHY”

Sources

1. <https://hechingerreport.org/proof-points-seven-new-studies-on-the-impact-of-a-four-day-school-week/>
2. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA373-1.html
3. <https://www.theedadvocate.org/what-are-the-pros-and-cons-4-day-school-weeks/>
4. <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/finance/shared/List-of-School-Districts-Four-Day-School-Week.xlsx>
5. <https://www.proquest.com/openview/58496256144814d59cacf8a73f7ecbdd/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y>
6. West Bonner County School District Calendar Committee survey data from Fall 2022