

Four Day Week



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Background



- I have consulted with over 20 districts in 4 states regarding the four day week.
- Usually the first call is “we are desperate in regards to money and now are forced to look at the four day week. Could you help us?”
- I am always willing to share, but from my experience, money should not be primary motivation for four day week.
- What is best for student achievement? This question should be your bottom line question.

What Works for Student Achievement?



(1) Increased instructional time with; (2) job embedded professional development time to ensure quality of instruction.

(3) Opportunities for students, i.e. museums, libraries, hobbies, opinions, conversations, social interactions (curriculum of the home)

Barriers



- Rather than each of these three working together, they usually are at the expense of each other, compete or cannibalize time.
- Or....the added cost to devote time to each is too high. (even though we know these things work!)



- The Four Day Week allows you to devote time to each of these pursuits, without adding extra money (actually spending less money).

Right now



- You are probably cutting instructional time to have teacher collaboration or training time
- You probably do not have time in the schedule for field trips, special projects, or other activities.....unless it is at the expense of training or instruction time

Its costs xxx number of dollars in fixed costs each day



- For example, it cost about \$3500 a day in fixed costs to have students in building.....
- Under 5 day week, we were getting 6 hours of instruction. (\$583 per hour)
- Under 4 day week, we are getting 7. (\$500 per hour)
- 16.6% more efficient

Instructional time



- 5-6 for 170-179 = 990
- 7 for 149 = 1043 (7.28)
- 8.83 days of instruction equivalent

Other key numbers



- $12 * \$485 = \$5,820$
- $33 * \$485 * 12 = \$192,060$
- 20% of wages for bus, cooks, cafeteria workers, etc...

Fridays



- Enrichment (Museums, libraries, hobbies, opinions, conversations, social interactions (curriculum of the home) <http://www.fenrichment.blogspot.com/>)
- Extra help
- “Naughty School”
- Cost for each of these= \$0
- Each teacher, as part of regular contract, does 5 total days. (3 enrich, 2 help/naughty)

Friday



- Educational reasons
- Teacher training/collaboration

Other key facts



No study that I have found says the four day week negatively effected student achievement for the total population or sub-group, many say it helps for certain subjects.

Close to 80% of the workforce does not work a “traditional” M-F 9-5 schedule according to US Labor department statistics.

In every study, student and teacher attendance increases and student discipline decreases.

Over 50% of districts in Oregon now operate on the four day week, been around since 1930.

Hard to find a district that returns.

Look at the data



- “Our results suggest that student academic achievement has not been hurt by the change in schedule. Instead, the evidence indicates that the adoption of a four-day school week shares a positive and often statistically significant relationship with performance in both reading and mathematics; the math results in particular are generally robust to a range of specification checks.” (Dr. Mark Andersen, Montana St.)



- “There’s no way a switch like that wouldn’t negatively affect teaching and learning.”

Tim Callahan, spokesman for the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (*Wall Street Journal*)

- “We took our budget savings and plowed it right back into instructional content.”

Riley Ramsey, Webster County, Kentucky school district director of personnel and technology (*TIME Magazine*)

Hints



- Prepare facts
- Base decision on questions “does this help us meet our district goals?” and “what is best for students?”
- It is not the strategy, it’s the execution. How you set it up is important.