

Four Day Week District Responses to the Following Questions

- Has your community noticed a negative financial impact to the businesses as a result of the move to a four day week?
- Are you aware of a negative impact on your students who participate in the free and reduced program as a result of the move to a four day week?
- How has your student achievement been impacted by the move to a four day week?

Gooding - Businesses actually saw some increases due to the 4 day week. The bowling alley starting a junior league that bowls on Fridays and restaurants also see more business on Fridays. We didn't really study this so I do not have hard facts, just observations and comments people have made.

Our neediest students are a worry because they are losing that day of a known meal. Our school and our local food bank work together on the "backpack program" to provide a back pack of meals for students over the 3 day weekend. We did this before and sent backpacks for the weekends, we just added a day's rations.

Our student achievement has increased. I think I sent you data previously on achievement. We were able to significantly narrow our achievement gaps and increase our mean RIT scores across the board. Our Friday school is critical and allows us customize interventions and really target students' needs.

Bear Lake - 1. One business said it has been great for them (Hardware, lumber). They like to have kids that can work on Fridays also. A grocery store said they have seen a decline in sales, but it was nice to have kids to work on Fridays. You have to understand we are 1.5 hours from the nearest Walmart, Home Depot, etc. So when people go out of town they often stay longer than they would in your community. Both individuals I spoke with said they love the 4 day week for their families, etc.

2. I have not had anyone complaints about not having free or reduced programs available to them on Fridays. Babysitting has been brought up, but there are a bunch of HS/MS kids available to babysit on Fridays now.

3. We have not seen any significant changes in achievement over the years one way or another.

Midvale – We don't have many businesses and also have a closed campus—so I don't believe the schedule had much of a financial impact. In addition, with activities on Friday students have more flexibility in patronizing business than they would under a 5 day system.

Free/Reduced issues: I haven't heard of any students going hungry because of the 4-day. Our food service actually ended up the year in the black after we went to the 4 day. I can't say that it was because of the 4 day---replacing our food service director might have had a greater impact.

Student Achievement: We had a 5 star rating before going to the 4-day and managed to maintain it this last year. I am not sure how we will fare with the new SBAC, but would suggest that we will be better off because our teachers had an additional 12 days (Fridays) to gear up. We did make a real effort to limit activities/field trips etc. to Fridays.

Bliss - I have never heard a negative comment about the financial impact. There aren't many kids anymore who go to town, they are all free lunch and don't have much to buy food.

We were concerned about the lunch and breakfast on Fridays also. The community church has lunch every Friday for those who need to eat. I don't think there are all that many that take advantage but there are a few.

We have had no negative impact on testing. We were able to reach 4 star status after the second year of 4-day weeks.

Cambridge - I have not heard of any. Is the concern that student are loitering or that parents are leaving the community to do their shopping? The only difference in my community between Friday and Saturday is that many students spend Friday morning at the HS.

We may have some students who experience hunger over the weekend. Because we are so small, we have one family that uses the backpack program. That seems to help. We have not received any complaints from students or parents.

Our student achievement has grown at a consistent rate, or remained near state averages in Math and Reading. Our Science and Language scores are increasing more slowly, although we believe that to be more related to a coordinated curriculum and commitment to time for the topic than the 4-Day week. The change we have seen is a dramatic reduction in the number of students who fail, or perform poorly, in each class. Our passing rate is in the mid to high 90% range. We calculate this by dividing the number of credits earned by the number of credits attempted by students.

Orofino - I am unaware of any negative impact on businesses in our communities of Pierce, Weippe, or Orofino.

Missing the two meals that are provided at school on Friday is an issue. We send back packs home with food on the weekends. Our district is 56% Free and Reduced. Timberline is close to 80%.

Student achievement has not been impacted. We try to not disrupt the four days with athletic activities, but students still miss some time. At Timberline High School, our 1AA school, we use the last period of the day for electives. I do not believe parents would support a return to a five day week. The four day week has become a part of their plan for appointments, shopping trips, etc..

Soda Springs - We have not received complaints for businesses regarding the financial impact.

We were worried about our free lunch students, but we are not aware of any impact.

There has been no negative impact with student achievement.

We were able to shut our buildings down on Fridays with the exception of the high school due to online classes and athletics/activities. We strictly went to the 4-day as a cost savings measure. We saved a little over a 100K a year, plus the unanticipated savings for the cost of substitutes.

Grace and North Gem - Community financial impact. We have a closed campus in both districts so the impact was negligible.

Free and reduced students are impacted if this is the only place they are receiving proper nutrition. However this has not been brought forward as a negative in either community.

Student achievement has improved in both districts since the implementation of the 4 day week.

Mackay - Our experience with the 4-day has been very positive. No impact on business and community; and no impact on student achievement. But we have been 4-day long enough that there is really nothing to compare to anymore, and we are 4 and 5 star schools.

Our attendance is better as parents have scheduled medical, etc on Fridays, and we are not losing the "sibling population" to ball games. Athletics was a big factor as much travel time was spent on Fridays. Teachers have also said their teaching time on a 4-day has become more "quality".

Shoshone - Our student achievement has increased significantly since we went to the 4 day week. I can't attribute it to the four day week, as we have made major changes in our district and the four day week is only one change. I will defer to the mounds of research that says student achievement is never decreased when you go to the four day week.

We have noticed no difference in our students that participate in the free and reduced program. Realize, we are close to 80% free and reduced. The only adjustment we have made is when we give out the food bank backpacks on Thursday, we include some extra food. Remember too, in our set up, the building is open to kids almost every Friday with some sort of activity. Day care is a wash...kids get home later on M-T, which saves parents day care monies.

We have not heard of any negative effect on businesses.

Preston - Test scores have remained flat. More important than 4 or 5 days is the strength of your programs. Strong programs appear to be solid on either schedule. High School A/B block schedule on 4 days was bad for core classes. We went traditional 7 period 2 semester schedule with better success.

Unexpected consequences are local dentists/doctors closing on Fridays to be with families.