

Bullshoe Think Tank: 4-Day Instructional Week - CERTIFIED

Date: March 5, 2025

Questions:

- What would the district save in fuel for buses, heat, lights in buildings, and substitute teachers every Friday? Multiply that x 4 Fridays per month!
- How will the change affect student learning?
- How can we accommodate families that work 5 days?
- Can we think outside of the box and be creative to support our students, staff and community?
- Plains Mt, goes to school for 5 days the 1st Semester. The 2nd semester, their district goes to 4 days/week.
- Is there a plan for Child care?
- Is there a plan for Food service?
- We schedule 90 minutes for reading and math. Will the 4 day have to make up the time on a Friday schedule?
- Will K-12 scheduling meet the required hours per subject? Class A schools tend to have a larger student/teacher ratio, would data be collected?
- Would data be collected on Class A schools (attendance and core topics)?
- How will SpEd students be affected?
- If we need to work on some Friday's, what will it look like?
- By looking at the required hours, will 10 hour days be required as we currently do extra (as OPI requirements)?
- Will staff have to work on Fridays? If so can we use those days for PD, Extended Day being on Friday and not on Wednesday?
- Can we change Family Teacher Conferences to a Friday when it comes to those times?
- Will this cause our work week to have extended work days?
- How would a four day week affect holiday pay and leave?
- Can we do any paid optional PD for Friday, once a month?
- What would be the time for a teacher/student on a 4 day week?
- What are our hours, start to end?
- What are the student hours, start to end?
- What are schedules going to look like?
- How does it affect pay and leave?
- How would instructional hours work?
- How would chronic tardiness and absences work?
- Can Friday be an option for tutoring students who are low in subject areas? This can provide hours for staff needing 40 hours.
- Could classified staff work Friday's? Ee-ka-kee-mat for makeup?
- Why does it have to be M-Th, could you go Tu-F?
- Could we do like East Glacier, have every other Friday off?
- Could TA's do tutoring, open gyms, after school programs during the Friday off to maintain their hours?
- Any chance some can come in for a half a day to open gym on Fridays? Ran by Classified
- Will we be out on Monday or Friday? I vote Monday because a lot of parents travel on weekends.
- Will we have a 4 day week one a month? If not explain why?
- Would school hours change on a 4 day school week?
- Will there be a meal option?
- Will an afterschool program provide hours for classified staff?

Bullshoe Think Tank: 4-Day Instructional Week - CERTIFIED

Questions:

- What will the hours be?
- What would the hours be for teachers?
- Would teachers work on Fridays?
- How would sick/personal leave be?
- Hours the kids would be in?
- Hours for our classified staff?
- Could Friday's be used for activities?
- Will salaries be affected?
- Will planning change for teachers?
- Will the Friday's be consumed by PD requirements or will prep be included?
- What would a schedule look like?

Positives:

- Won't see teacher burnout.
- See better attendance in students/teachers.
- Teacher morale and retention.
- Everything LOL
- Personal care of staff may well show a positive outcome.
- Attendance due to the earlier start of the day.
- Friday's off!
- I think it could be good for both students and staff.
- More prep time for teachers to prepare for the week.
- Mental health improvements for both students/staff.
- Decrease in teacher burnout.
- Might boost staff attendance.
- Might boost student attendance.
- Might have better data, student engagement and involvement.
- Using Friday's to take care of personal business.
- Extra time to take care of appointments.
- Students who don't like to come to school will want to since the week is shorter.
- Being able to attend things on Friday's like sporting events without having to take leave.
- Research says student scores and attendance have improved when school districts changed to four day weeks.
- I think it will really improve staff and student attendance.
- It will help with staff burn out.
- It will be great because the weather in MT specifically in the Browning area.
- 3 day weekend!
- More Family time.
- Attendance for both students/staff would see improvements.
- Time to make appointments.
- Allow time for students to have more time at home.
- Allow staff mental health.
- I VOTE YES!
- Better attendance for staff and students.
- We can use Friday's as a business day for us and not have to worry about leave.
- More family time.
- Less commute time/days.

Bullshoe Think Tank: 4-Day Instructional Week - CERTIFIED

Positives:

- More time for self care/ doctor appointments that you avoid due to leave.
- More quality PD time.
- Increase in staff morale.
- Attendance improves for students from the research I've seen.
- Less teacher burnout.
- Potential gain in attendance and academics.
- Perhaps better or more retention for teachers.
- Less burnout for students and teachers.
- Less staff absences.
- Weekday open to making appointments.
- Would help with teacher burn out.
- Improve attendance.
- Sports athletes not missing instruction.
- Limit burnout with students/staff.
- Help teachers/students with school burnout.
- Time for Dr. appointments, time for business without having to take a day off.
- According to the OPI study, no change in scores between 4-5 days a week.
- Better attendance for teachers and students
- Won't burnout
- 3 day break
- Reduces cost in transportation and building usage.
- Based on our attendance percentage our students miss one day per week and it would boost our average.
- Morale and staff's ability to re-energize.
- Less teacher burnout.
- Possible opportunity for more "family time".
- Start school earlier.
- Training on Fridays for educators.
- Maybe we can have special activities in the morning set up in the gym and also have Specials in the morning.
- Have school bus drivers deliver food bags on Friday's.
- Counselors available district wide on Friday's.
- Maybe we can upload phonics, math, and reading so the kids can work on their ipads on Friday's.
- More time for yourself and your mental health.
- Works great with future people's schedules.
- SEL/Self care for staff and students both.
- Appointments
- No teacher burnout
- Family time
- Prep time
- Dr. appointments and to get business done so don't miss work on M-Th.
- Friday's off
- Teacher mental health
- Student attendance
- Staff and community impact with less burnout.
- How much will the district save by not running all of the buses, electricity, and heat for all the campuses?

Bullshoe Think Tank: 4-Day Instructional Week - CERTIFIED

Negatives:

- Child care for families of working parents.
- Meals for families with low income.
- Lack of supervision of youtube at home without adult supervision.
- Susceptible to be a victim of illegal problems (abduction/poor guardianship).
- Lots of businesses are also on 4 day work weeks so I won't be able to do car, dental, etc. on Friday's.
- Food for students who need it. Perhaps kitchen staff can work (M-Th) and the other half (Tu-F). Each staff will get a 3 day weekend, maybe Friday or Monday. Can rotate quarterly.
- How can we curb the food insecurities for students?
- Long days early and late routes for out of town employees on weather days are a concern.
- Friday childcare (siblings watching siblings)
- Food distribution
- Eegakeemaht day? Can they provide a Friday activity?
- Will this affect classified hours?
- Options for kids meals for a day off?
- Ensure kids are engaged on Friday's (solve with use of TA, cultural programs, clubs, athletic activities).
- Will classified employees be affected?
- Some kids have a bad home life.
- Disrupted routines
- Food for students
- Classified hour shortage (they are our backbone)
- Meal for students (Friday)
- Students who rely on our food and shelter, what about them?
- Students who need food
- Could classified staff be staggered to get their full time hours?
- Are there better studies out there that don't include the pandemic (UM study)?

Need more information about:

- How we implement makes the difference...every US study emphasizes that.
- Quality teachers
- Quality instruction
- Staff attendance and cohesion of school climate.
- Length of days.
- How would this look for holiday breaks?
- How much leave would be granted per school year?
- Does Heart Butte have a 4 day week?
- Research shows how this will improve student retention.
- Friday is already low for student and staff attendance.
- It seems that the students with food insecurity are the ones that don't come to school- chronic absences.
- Can our lower grades have a shorter day rather than the same amount of hours as the high school because they need more hours per OPI?
- What would a longer day schedule look like?
- What would the school day hours go to?
- I have faith that our district will use data to put in place the programs that will improve education.

Bullshoe Think Tank: 4-Day Instructional Week - CERTIFIED

Need more information about:

- Pay?
- Possibly having staff come in on Friday's for meetings, etc. versus holding meetings on M-Th.
- How would the calendar be?
- Work days for teachers.
- Teacher leave (sick/personal)
- Pay and leave?
- Data on cost savings of district expenditures.
- Data on staff burnout with current schedules and expectations.