

**Many questions have been posed by staff, parents and community members regarding the possible transition from a 5-day to a 4-day school week. Below is a summary of those questions with answers.**

**1. What about the kids who have food insecurity?**

We currently provide buddy packs for weekends. A Fayette Ministerial Alliance representative has assured the district that they will make certain that the Buddy Pack program will continue regardless if there is a 4- or 5-day week schedule. They are committed to the program and it would be their intention to provide additional food in the packs.

**2. What will the calendar look like compared to now?**

There is no longer a requirement for schools to have a certain number of days in session. The requirement is that we attend 1,044 hours. (This is what we get reimbursed for by the state even if we attend more hours.) The maximum hours that we could attend at Daly Elementary this year is 1,129. However, any early outs or late starts due to weather or other events as well as up to 6 full snow days have been built into the calendar. This could make our calendar 1,088 hours or less. For instance, we were actually in session 1,092 hours in the 2018-2019 school year. A sample 4-day calendar with 152 days and 20 minutes added to each day would yield 1,082 hours. This year's calendar has 168 days with the possibility of attending 162. New state law mandates the start for the 2020-2021 school year at August 24 or later.

**3. Will daycare be provided?**

This would depend upon need. We are currently looking at options for grant funding to provide after-school care for our students. If there is interest, we would look at options to add Monday care as an addition to any after-school program that is offered.

**4. How many schools in Missouri currently have a 4-Day week?**

There are currently 61 districts in Missouri that are on a 4-day week schedule.

**5. Which day will be the day off?**

Since there are already several holidays that we are scheduled off on Mondays, we would choose Monday as the day off each week.

**6. How would this change affect students in preschool?**

Students in preschool would meet four days/week as well. The time of each preschool session would likely be extended.

**7. How are longer instructional days beneficial for the students?**

Four years ago we added 9 minutes to our school day to increase the number of professional development days for teachers and decreased our school calendar by 6 days. Since that time we have seen steady increases in our APR scores, primarily based around increases in our MAP state assessment achievement. We believe that dedicating time for teacher collaboration and training drives these positive results.

**8. How many weeks of the school year are already less than a full week?**

Of 38 weeks that school is in session, 18 weeks (47%) are partial weeks for holidays, professional development days, and parent-teacher conferences.

**9. Would snow days be made up?**

Yes, snow days would be made up on Mondays, avoiding holidays when possible.

**10. Will the district provide transportation to Vo-Tech?**

Yes, Vo-Tech will still go 5 days per week and we would provide transportation to and from school to Vo-Tech.

**11. How would this change create more consistency in scheduling for parents?**

Right now we have 4 half days, 5 Fridays, and 11 Mondays off due to parent/teacher conferences, holidays, and professional development (this is on top of the winter and Thanksgiving break). If the schedule change is made, all professional development would be held on Mondays, parent-teacher conferences would be held on Mondays, and half days would be eliminated (with the possible exception of the last day of school). This would make the weeks consistently Tuesday-Friday. This would also allow parents to schedule other appointments (doctor, etc.) and even small family trips without missing instruction.

**12. How could this change benefit our students?**

- Some of the financial savings from the transition can be utilized to support a summer school program for students. This has been something that has been cut due to lack of funding. This would allow us to increase instructional time in the summer when students experience a longer stretch of time away from school and help prevent the “summer slide”.
- Snow days can be made up in a more timely manner, better affecting instructional time.
- Time on Mondays could be used for enrichment, internship, job shadowing, and time for students to explore career opportunities.
- Increased professional development time for teachers resulting in richer, more rigorous learning opportunities for our students

**13. Will the district actually save any money?**

Projections for savings are near \$30,000. Approximately 30% of the savings would be in transportation costs, 32% in custodial contract cost, 13% in substitute costs, 17% in food costs, and 5% in utilities.

**14. Why did the board of education begin looking at this?**

The board is looking at this as a strategy to encourage a higher number of teacher applicants, as well as to encourage teachers to stay with our district. Many of our teachers (44%) live outside the district and 25% are within 1-5 years of retirement. The number of applications that we have received for teaching positions over the last several years has declined significantly. For instance, in the last two years we had only 6 and 7 applicants for open elementary positions where in years past we have had as many as 53 applications. Nationwide, individuals entering the education profession has declined significantly. Several schools across the nation and now in Missouri have seen success with this recruitment/retention strategy. It's one way that we can compensate our teachers when it is extremely difficult to compete with salaries of larger schools in our proximity. The most influential factor on a student's learning is the quality of the teacher in the classroom. Recruiting and retaining high quality teachers is a priority to ensure that we are providing the best education possible for our students. This additional day in the week will also increase the amount of professional development offered to teachers, which again in turn, will support a strong learning environment for our students.