

Pulaski County Public Schools 4 Day Instructional Week Discussion

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

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Overview

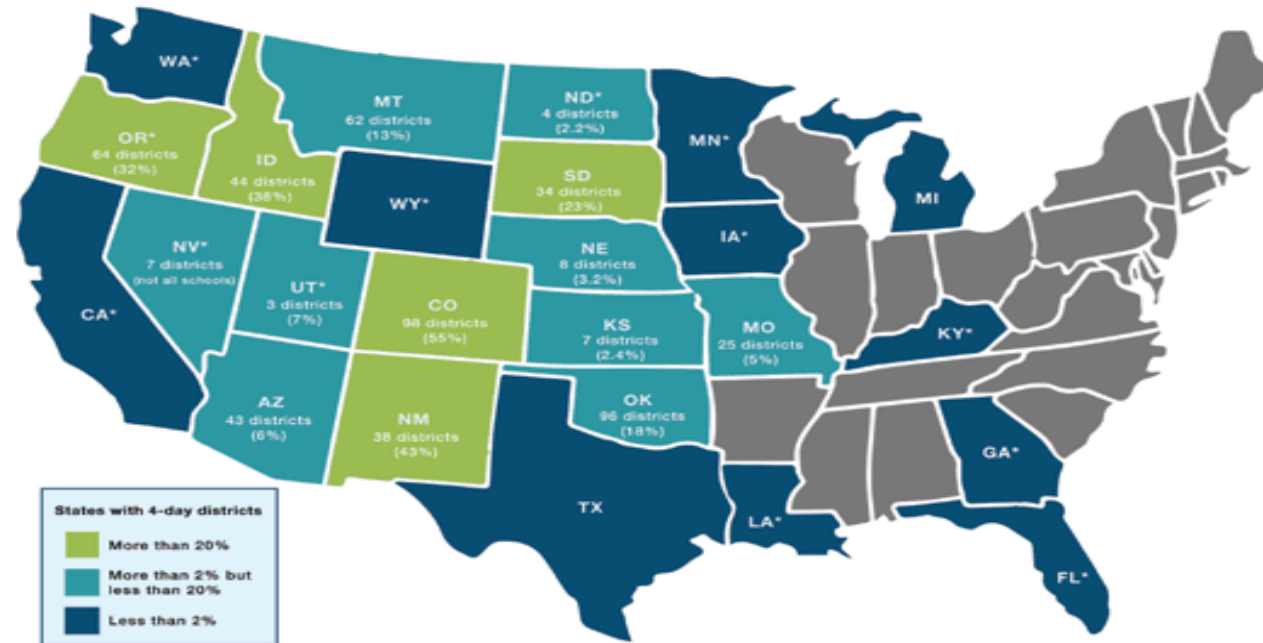
1. There are currently 560 school divisions in 25 states that have at least one school district using a four-day school week.
2. Most four-day instructional week schools go Monday-Thursday but some have elected to go Tuesday-Friday, which is thought to be better since most athletic teams don't play on Mondays.
3. The days are typically about an hour longer than those in a five-day instructional week.
4. There is typically one Friday or Monday each month during which teachers report for professional development, faculty meetings, professional learning communities, etc.

States where 4 Day Weeks are Utilized

National Conference of State Legislatures

25 States Have at Least One District Using a Four-Day School Week

Approximately 550 of the Nation's School Districts Use a Four-Day Schedule²



* The number of districts in these states are estimates because the data are from old department of education reports or newspaper reports.

Notes:

a. We only included states that have districts currently using four-day schedules. Some states had districts using the four-day schedule in the past but no longer do (e.g., Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey).

b. All data are from the 2018 school year except for Arizona (2015), California (2011), Missouri (2017), Montana (2017), Nevada (2012), Oklahoma (2017), Oregon (2013), Texas (2016), and Utah (2013).

Applicable Code

§ 22.1-79.1. Opening of the school year; approvals for certain alternative schedules.

A. Each local school board shall set the school calendar so that the first day students are required to attend school shall be no earlier than 14 days before Labor Day. In each school division in which the school board sets the school calendar so that the first day students are required to attend school is before Labor Day, such school board shall close each school in the school division from the Friday immediately preceding Labor Day through Labor Day. The Board of Education may waive this requirement based on a school board certifying that it meets the good cause requirements of subsection B.

B. For purposes of this section, "good cause" means a school division is providing its students, in the school year for which the waiver is sought, with instructional programs that are offered on a year-round basis by the school division in one or more of its elementary or middle or high schools. Any waiver provided pursuant to this subsection shall only apply to the opening date for those schools where such year-round instructional programs are offered.

C. Individual schools may propose, and local school boards may approve, pursuant to guidelines developed by the Board of Education, alternative school schedule plans providing for the operation of schools on a four-day weekly calendar, so long as a minimum of 990 hours of instructional time is provided for grades one through 12 and 540 hours for kindergarten.

D. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or any other provision of law, the school board of any school division located in Planning District 16 that was not granted a good cause waiver pursuant to this section for the 2018-2019 school year but would qualify for such a waiver pursuant to this section as it was in effect prior to July 1, 2019, for the 2019-2020 school year may set the school calendar so that the first day students are required to attend is earlier than Labor Day, including earlier than 14 days before Labor Day. Additionally, the school board of any school division located in Planning District 16 that is entirely surrounded by two school divisions that either were granted a waiver pursuant to Chapter 3 of the Acts of Assembly of 2012, Special Session I, or would qualify for a good cause waiver pursuant to this section as it was in effect prior to July 1, 2019, for the 2019-2020 school year may open schools on the same opening date as either such surrounding school division.

Advantages

Improved student and employee attendance rates. Parents & teachers can schedule appointments for the days that school is not in session.

Teacher recruitment & retention.

Allows for regular teacher development activities and opportunities to collaborate.

Greater work-life balance for teachers.

Less wear and tear on buses.

Cost savings range from .04%-2.5% (\$200,000-\$1,250,000 of the PCPS budget)

Some studies have shown a significant increase in student math achievement.

Students have more time to pursue outside interests, public service projects for high school students can be scheduled during the off day, and it benefits students who are employed.

Disadvantages

Some schools experienced a short term drop in student achievement during the first and second years of implementation.

Lack of childcare options for younger students on the days that school is not in session.

Negative financial impact on the school nutrition programs.

Fewer meals provided each week to low income students.

Some studies indicate an increase in neighborhood juvenile crime on days when school is not in session.

Time needed to adapt to the longer instructional days.

Impact on extra-curricular activities. (Less time for practices during daylight hours & missing instructional time to travel to away events.)

Questions To Answer If We Move Forward

1. Do we want to look at it for 2020-2020 or the following year?
2. How do we structure the salaries for support personnel?
3. Teacher contracts would be changed from 200 day contracts to 1500 hour contracts. The sample calendar doesn't account for about 300 hours. Do we add in a few more instructional days to build more of a cushion? Could we add another Monday per month for grades & planning? If so, could teachers be given the option to work at home?
4. How will we structure summer enrichment programs?
5. How would the longer school day impact schedules for 11 and 12 month employees?

Questions or Comments?

THANK YOU!

