

Board of Education Special Meeting
Monday, February 3, 2025 6:00 PM
Main Gymnasium
802 Highland Street
Wakefield, NE 68784

1. Opening Procedures
 - 1.1. Call to Order
 - 1.2. Open Meetings Act
 - 1.3. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.4. School District Mission Statement
 - 1.5. Roll Call
2. Presentation on 4-day week considerations
Farup
3. Recognition of Visitors/Communication from the Public
4. Adjournment

Adopting a four-day school week requires careful consideration of several factors to ensure it benefits students, staff, and the community. Key aspects to evaluate include:

1. Educational Impact:

- **Academic Performance:** Research indicates mixed outcomes regarding the effect of a four-day week on student achievement. Some studies suggest potential declines in areas like math proficiency, while others show minimal impact. It's crucial to assess how reduced instructional days might affect learning outcomes.

[Nebraska Public Media](#)

[The Four-Day School Week: Research Shows Benefits and Consequences](#)

[Four-day school week: Research suggests impacts of a condensed schedule vary by student group, school type](#)

[Does Shortening the School Week Impact Student Performance? Evidence from the Four-Day School Week](#)

https://media.oregonstate.edu/media/t/1_o4tw6qqz)

- **Instructional Time:** Nebraska requires a minimum of 1,032 instructional hours for elementary students and 1,080 hours for high school students. Transitioning to a four-day school week typically involves extending daily hours to meet these requirements. For high school students, the school day would increase to 8.25 hours, compared to the current 7.5-hour day.

The exact start time of the school day could vary. For example, Wynot Schools begins at 7:30 a.m., while Randolph starts at 7:50 a.m. A likely start time for the new schedule could be around 7:50 or 8:00 a.m. High school dismissal would then be at approximately 4:05 or 4:15 p.m.

For elementary students, the day would likely begin 10 minutes later and end 10 minutes earlier than the high school schedule. Preschool, which has much lower instructional hour requirements, would likely align its schedule with the elementary day, though adjustments could be made as needed.

[3 News Now](#)

2. Teacher Recruitment and Retention:

- **Attracting Educators:** Districts like Weeping Water have adopted a four-day week to address teacher shortages, finding it beneficial for recruitment and retention. The additional day off can serve as an incentive for educators seeking better work-life balance.

[Nebraska Public Media](#)

3. Financial Considerations:

- **Cost Savings:** Some districts have reported savings in transportation, utilities, and operational costs by adopting a shorter school week. However, these savings can vary and are often not significant enough to justify the change based solely on financial considerations. While cost reductions may result from fewer hours worked by classified staff throughout the year, this could also create challenges in retaining and recruiting valuable employees to the district.
- [Nebraska Advantage](#)

4. Community and Parental Impact:

- **Childcare Needs:** A shorter school week may pose challenges for working parents needing childcare on the fifth day. Engaging with the community to address these concerns is essential. Churches and para educators have filled childcare needs for many districts that adopted a 4-day week.
- [KLKN-TV](#)
- **Student Activities:** The additional day off can provide opportunities for students to engage in extracurricular activities, part-time employment, or family time, which may be viewed positively by the community. Practice times on the day off would be kept at normal times to allow older students to watch siblings, work, or family time.

5. Implementation Logistics:

- **Scheduling Adjustments:** Extending the length of the remaining school days is typically necessary to meet state instructional hour requirements. This change can affect transportation schedules, meal services, and after-school programs. The Student day would have to be 8 hours and 15 minutes.
- **Professional Development:** The additional day can be designated for teacher planning and professional development, offering opportunities to enhance instructional quality. The Teacher PD Day would consist of 8 hours.
- [Alliance Times](#)

6. Stakeholder Engagement:

- **Community Input:** Conduct surveys and hold forums to gather feedback from parents, students, staff, and community members to ensure that the decision reflects the community's needs and concerns.
- [Parent Survey Results](#)
- We also engaged with Johnson County Central School district to survey their staff after their first semester of adopting a 4-day week. JCC has similar demographics to us in the free/reduced lunch demographic. However, they have a significantly lower percentage of EL and Latino students than we do. Here are the survey results from JCC staff.
- [JCC Staff Survey Results](#)

Comments and Notes:

No 2:00 dismissal days. 1:00 dismissal on the first day of school, the day before Christmas break, and the last day of school.

Can field trips and student organization trips be on the “day off” day?