

Bertha-Hewitt 4 Day School Week Frequently Asked Questions

If we were in the black (positive) financially – would we still be considering a 4-day week

- I believe the Administrative Team would still be looking into it because there are more benefits than just financial reasons. We see the value in retaining our teachers, attracting more candidates for our openings, giving older students an opportunity to work another day, and several more benefits.

Is there a way to see if we will lose students because of this?

- I think we will get a sense if a family may leave our District through the survey process. Our goal is to create the best working and learning environment for everyone so we will do our best to speak with these families and try to accommodate them to keep them a part of our school family.

Will kids have to be picked up a lot earlier?

- No – On the two scenarios we have shared – the school day will not start more than 8 minutes earlier, so I don't see if the kids getting picked up much earlier. We have extended the day by over 25 minutes so they will get home a bit later, but they won't have to get up much earlier.

Are conferences and IEP's going to be on those off days?

- When conferences will be held is dependent on if we have Fridays or Mondays off. If you look at both calendars that are posted online – you can see when conferences are at. IEPs may be held on the off days so our staff aren't missing instructional time, but the staff day is longer so they could also be held before or after school easier in the 4-day model.

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It has been said that two benefits are financial savings and creating a more stable teaching staff – If we don't go to a 4-day model, how will that financially affect the district? And how will affect staffing

- When schools were first allowed to apply for a 4-day week over a decade ago it was because it helped schools save some money. Bertha-Hewitt is financially stable, but we have deficit spent (like many districts) the last couple of years because of increased costs of programming, transportation, supplies, etc. If we don't go with a four-day model we will see larger class sizes, less high school electives, no interventionists (help title kids) just to name a few changes. Many schools in the state are struggling to attract and retain teachers – we are confident the 4-day model will help our district retain our current great staff and attract more quality staff as well.

Would we have to E-learning Days to get enough days in to meet the state minimum?

- No – At the meeting on Tuesday it was mentioned that we may need to have an E-learning day or two to get enough days in. We have reconfigured the calendar to have 148 student days which helps us stay above the state minimum of hours.

Would there still be early outs?

- No – This is a big benefit of the 4-day school week. Our staff would be able to have more staff development time (which will be needed with new legislation) without having to burden parents with 12:15 dismissals.