## REPUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

4-Day School Survey 2023 DRAFT


Badger Z Consulting, LLC
509-690-7385

## SURVEY DETAILS

## Survey included 28 questions in seven categories:

1. Educational Impact \& Quality of Instruction
2. Staffing Considerations
3. Student Considerations \& Extracurricular Activities
4. Family Considerations
5. Community, Environment and Sustainability
6. Health, Safety \& Wellbeing
7. Overall Impressions \& Preferences

Opportunity for comment (unlimited)

## Demographic questions:

Relationship to school district \# school-aged children

Approved absences
Employment status
Single/dual guardian household

Household support
Name (optional)
Zip code

7-Scale Likert:

- Most negative
- Negative
- Slightly negative
- Neutral/no impact
- Slightly positive
- Positive
- Most positive
- Don't Know
- N/A


## DEMOGRAPHICS: WHO RESPONDED?



What is your relationship to the Republic School District?


## DEMOGRAPHICS





Single-parent/guardian household?


## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

## Areas of Greatest Concern ( $>30 \%$ Negative Response):

- Dissatisfaction with current 5-day schedule (40\%)
- Impact on school-related business traffic (33\%)
- Impact on after-school activities (31\%)
- $70 \%$ increase in non-school related interests
- Access to regular meals (31\%)
- $44 \%$ not concerned

[^0]
## Areas of Greatest Positive Impact ( $\mathbf{7 6 0 \%}$ Positive Response):

- Improved flexibility/appointment management (76\%)
- Flexibility for other opportunities/hobbies (69\%)
- Increased family time (68\%)
- Staff development/retention (61-68\%)
- Improved attendance (64\%)
-lmproved mental health (63\%)


## KEY FINDINGS: EDUCATIONAL IMPACT AND QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION

$70 \%$ indicate 4-day school week would have positive or no impact on student learning

76\% indicate 4-day school week would improve or not change quality of instruction

How do you think a four-day school week would impact student learning?


How do you think a four-day school week would affect the quality of instruction?


## KEY FINDINGS: STAFFING CONSIDERATIONS

High rate of positive responses for impacting professional development, teacher prep and planning, and hiring/retention (>60\%)
How would a four-day school week
impact teacher professional
development?


How would a four-day school week impact teacher preparation and planning?


How would a four-day school week affect the ability to hire and keep quality teachers and staff?


## KEY FINDINGS: STUDENT CONSIDERATIONS \& EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Only 42\% felt a 4-day week would positively impact school-related after-school activities, but nearly $70 \%$ felt it would increase opportunities for non-school activities.

How do you think a four-day school week would affect after-school activities like sports and clubs, including student participation in these activities?


How would a four-day school week impact opportunities for students to engage in personal hobbies and interests outside of formal school activities?


## KEY FINDINGS: FAMILY CONSIDERATIONS

Responses indicate significant positive impacts to family time and family management activities

How would a four-day school week impact your family time?


How would a four-day school week impact your ability to schedule family appointments, activities or other personal needs?


Equal positive/negative response regarding family financial impacts ( $23 \%$ ) with $36 \%$ no impact

What are your thoughts on how a fourday school week might affect your family's financial situation?

$\square$ Negative ■No Impact ■Positive ■Don't Know/NA

## KEY FINDINGS: FAMILY CONSIDERATIONS CONT.

62\% indicate 4-day week would have positive or no impact to work schedule; 27\% negative impact
$28 \%$ indicate increased need for childcare, with $51 \%$ saying decreased need or no impact

How do you think a four-day school week would affect your work schedule?


## KEY FINDINGS: COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT \& SUSTAINABILITY

Transportation: Responses indicate decrease in need for both school-provided and personal vehicle use

How do you think a four-day school week would change the need for school-provided transportation, such as bus rides?


How do you anticipate a four-day school week would impact your personal vehicle use for driving kids to and from school?


## KEY FINDINGS: HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING

$31 \%$ concerned about food security vs. $44 \%$ not concerned

How do you feel about children's access to regular meals, including food provisions on the day off, during a four-day school week, considering some support may be available?


Food Security: Breakdown by Group


## KEY FINDINGS: HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING

Responses strongly indicate 4-day schedule would improve overall wellbeing, mental health, and attendance

On average, how often do you typically take your child(ren) out of school for appointments or other needs?


How do you think a four-day school week would affect students' overall well-being and mental health?


How do you think a fourday school week would impact student attendance?


## QUESTIONS ASKED IN SURVEY RESPONSES

- Would shortening the school week turn it in to an all year-round school year, or impact scheduled breaks?
- Could teachers be available on Fridays for extra assistance, or would there be a Friday "open lab?"
- What happens to the teachers contractually?
- Will transportation be available for athletic/extracurricular activities on days off?
- Does the school have a fact/statistics model in the works to gather info from grade standings, parents, teachers, office staff to determine, if initiated, the new schedule is headed in the right trajectory at the beginning and what steps to take to either support continued positive or correct negative direction?


## SUMMARY OF ADDITIONAL COMMENTS*

| Positives | Concerns |
| :--- | :--- |
| More time to rest | Lack of childcare in community |
| Staff productivity/training | Scheduling for single and dual-working parents |
| More time at home/with family | Longer school day could be hard for some children |
| Decreased fuel costs | Impact to parents for athletic transportation on days off |
| Current Friday is wasted day | School provides infrastructure/basic needs for those less fortunate |
| Improved creativity (hobbies); flexibility (appts/community activities) | Less structure (frequency/repetition of learning) |
| Improved mental health | Kids won't want to work a five-day work-week ("societal norms") |
| Improved attendance | Impact to sleeping schedules |
| Increased local consumer spending | Students will forget weekly learning after 3-day weekends |
| Conservation - reduced operating costs | Kids need more discipline |
| 4-day schedule has been tried and tested successfully | Increased behavior problems |
| Less bus riding |  |
| Staff retention |  |

[^1]
## RESPONSES INDICATE OVERALL SUPPORT FOR 4-DAY SCHOOL WEEK

Are you overall in favor of implementing a four-day school
week?

- Opposed
- Neutral
- In Favor

Don't Know/NA


Overall Support/Oppose by Group


80
Breakdown of Support/Oppose


## APPENDIX

## All Data Charts:

- Bar charts show all responses
- Pie charts summarize to Positive, No Impact, Negative and Unknown/NA


## HOW DO YOU THINK A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK WOULD IMPACT STUDENT LEARNING?



## HOW MIGHT A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK AFFECT HOMEWORK AND STUDY TIME AT HOME?




## HOW DO YOU THINK A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK WOULD AFFECT THE QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION?




## HOW WOULD A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK IMPACT TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT?



## HOW WOULD A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK IMPACT TEACHER PREPARATION AND PLANNING?



HOW WOULD A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK AFFECT THE ABILITY TO HIRE AND KEEP QUALITY TEACHERS AND STAFF?


## IF YOU ARE A STUDENT, HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT GOING TO SCHOOL FOR FOUR (4) DAYS INSTEAD OF FIVE (5)?



# HOW DO YOU THINK A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK WOULD AFFECT AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES LIKE SPORTS AND CLUBS, INCLUDING STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN THESE ACTIVITIES? 




HOW WOULD A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK AFFECT STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN AFTER-SCHOOL JOBS OR VOLUNTEER WORK?



HOW WOULD A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK IMPACT OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO ENGAGE IN PERSONAL HOBBIES AND INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF FORMAL SCHOOL ACTIVITIES?


## HOW WOULD A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK IMPACT YOUR FAMILY TIME?




HOW WOULD A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK IMPACT YOUR ABILITY TO SCHEDULE FAMILY APPOINTMENTS, ACTIVITIES OR OTHER PERSONAL NEEDS?



## HOW DO YOU THINK A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK WOULD AFFECT YOUR WORK SCHEDULE?



## HOW WOULD A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK AFFECT YOUR NEED FOR CHILDCARE?



## HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR ABILITY TO FIND SUITABLE CHILDCARE OPTIONS IF A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK WERE IMPLEMENTED?



WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON HOW A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK MIGHT AFFECT YOUR FAMILY'S FINANCIAL SITUATION?



## HOW MIGHT A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK AFFECT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS THAT USE SCHOOL FACILITIES?




# HOW COULD A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK IMPACT LOCAL BUSINESSES THAT DEPEND ON SCHOOL-RELATED TRAFFIC? 



# HOW DO YOU THINK A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK WOULD AFFECT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL EVENTS? 




# HOW DO YOU THINK A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK WOULD CHANGE THE NEED FOR SCHOOL-PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION, SUCH AS BUS RIDES? 




# HOW DO YOU ANTICIPATE A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK WOULD IMPACT YOUR PERSONAL VEHICLE USE FOR DRIVING KIDS TO AND FROM SCHOOL? 




HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO REGULAR MEALS, INCLUDING FOOD PROVISIONS ON THE DAY OFF, DURING A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK, CONSIDERING SOME SUPPORT MAY BE AVAILABLE?



# HOW DO YOU THINK A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK WOULD AFFECT STUDENTS' OVERALL WELL-BEING AND MENTAL HEALTH? 




## HOW DO YOU THINK A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK WOULD IMPACT STUDENT ATTENDANCE?



## HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE CURRENT FIVE-DAY PER WEEK SCHEDULE?



## HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT HAVING A SLIGHTLY LONGER SCHOOL DAY BUT FEWER DAYS IN A WEEK?




DO YOU SUPPORT MAINTAINING THE SCHOOL YEAR BETWEEN LABOR DAY AND PROSPECTOR'S DAY, WITH NO OR LITTLE EXTENSION INTO THE SUMMER MONTHS, EVEN IF THERE ARE SLIGHT CHANGES TO DAILY SCHOOL HOURS?


## are you OVErall in favor of Implementing A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK?



## DEMOGRAPHICS

How many school-aged children do you care for?


What grades are your child(ren) in? (Check all that apply)


## DEMOGRAPHICS

Employment Status:


Are you from a single-parent/guardian household?


## DEMOGRAPHICS

On average, how often do you typically take your child(ren) out of school for appointments or other needs?


Is there another responsible adult in your household who can assist with various responsibilities on days when you are unavailable?


## SURVEY RESPONSES, UNEDITED ("STRONGLY OPPOSED")

| Why was the hours of what a four day week would look like included in the outreach information and this survey? |
| :--- |
| I'm very concerned about US K-12 education state \& nationwide. Also, learning is directly impacted by frequency of exposure, repetition. American K-12 |
| is disadvantaged when compared to other competitive nations, across the board in disciplines - STEM, history, foreign language, vocational skills. |
| Homework is practically non-existent. Kids don't have to learn to graduate. Less structured face to face time hurts outcomes... we saw this with Covid. |
| A 4-day week might save a few \$ in utilities/building costs, fuel for busing. Wages would not be adjusted. Learning would suffer. Kids would have less |
| face time access to instructors, less repetition in topics studied, less time developing social emotional skills, work ethic, etc. Maybe consider some hybrid |
| program to provide access to specific enrichment? Tutoring, other "exploratory" courses that are non- core but valued and no longer available? |
| I think single-parent one income households will suffer, kids will suffer, cost savings won't be significant enough to notice. The only winners here are |
| teachers and staff. I don't under-value them but children \& quality education must be the priority. We need to improve outcomes, not take long |
| weekends. |
| Adding more time to a school day, when kids already checked out towards the end of the day, is a MISTAKE. This posses undue strain on many families <br> with 2 working parents. |
| By doing this you will groove in horrible habits that the children will carry with them into adulthood--such as not being ready nor willing to work a five <br> day workweek. A lot of times things like this are done in the name of teacher retention and/or attracting new teachers as well as "do you think kids will <br> like going to school four days more than they like going to school 5 days?" Everyone knows that every kid will tell you they like going to school less days. <br> But is that what's in their best long term interests--to learn a habit or only going to school (or a job) four out of five days per week? I strongly oppose <br> this idea. I can tell by how the questions are posed that this hasn't been conducted with the best long term interests of the children in mind. This will <br> create kids with a much worse work ethic and a disdain for societal norms that have been in place for many centuries at this point. |

## SURVEY RESPONSES, UNEDITED ("STRONGLY OPPOSED")

A four-day school week will have a negative impact on my children's sleep schedule.
My kids are already teetering being burnt out by the time they get home from school every day. A longer day will just be harder on them and the learning they do during those extra hours I think will not be retained. Also an extra day of weekend means an extra day to forget there weekly learning. It's more realistic to schedule appointments for after school times or to only miss an hour of school during school time. A full school week helps kids adjust and be more open to full work weeks as adults. Full work weeks are a realistic standard in our society. If teachers are having issues with a full work week then why do our children need to be the ones to pay the price? Why do our households need to pay the price? It makes more sense to figure it out in a way that doesn't effect hundreds of households. I strongly disagree with this idea of 4 day school weeks.

Homework load would increase, which I strongly oppose. Longer days are more difficult for preschool, kindergarten and early grade schoolers. It's hard enough to give individualized teaching to non-gifted students; a four day school week would jeopardize those students learning potential, harming them and leaving the school open for lawsuits regarding noncompliance of state regulations.
Some kids are already getting lazy in school and homework, a four day week makes it even worse. I don't think that this was a child's idea, hire more teachers if others get tired. Our kids need discipline education and not a four day school week.
Please don't do that to our future!!

## Don't be a sheep, be a tiger.

Will transport be available for sports? Can I get a tax break so I can pay for child care on my kids extra day off?
The trickle-down effect the four-day school week would impact our community in so many ways. For starters, it is almost impossible to find anyone willing to work - what are the options for parents who work full time? If the parents cannot find child care they will be forced to either quit their jobs or or leave their children unattended, unsupervised and unsafe. If parents have to quit their jobs, they will have less money to spend on basic necessities... Think this through, folks!
This would cause undue burden on 2 income families. The only families that benefit are ones with a stay at home parent. I'm concerned about reducing hours of instruction, without negatively impacting student's learning. Some families rely on meals for their kids on Fridays. Even if the school offered meals on Fridays, how would those students get them? I understand the financial and teacher retention benefits this could bring. I don't believe these benefits outweigh the negative effects that the 4dsw would have on our students.
"How might a four-day school week affect community programs that use school facilities? " this question should even be a consideration. The well being of families and children should be the only priorities in this discussion
A 4-day school week would clearly benefit teachers, but would not be benefical to students or their learning. A longer school day is also likely to increase behavior problems.

## SURVEY RESPONSES, UNEDITED ("OPPOSED")

Child care in the area is very lacking. My family may not need it as much, but I think many would be impacted. Also many kids depend on the adult interaction, let alone food when coming to school. If sick and missing school, more classroom time may be lost for a student - or for appointments. Things like orthodontia options in Colville, etc are often limited to a Monday or Wednesday for example. It's not like a lot of appointments could always be scheduled on the day off of school due to scheduling constraints. This could result in more class time missed vs less. Also, especially in younger grades, a longer day may impair learning. Also, with sports, if already a longer school day, students would be going even later. Being gone for games would result in more class time lost also. I would want to see data from districts doing who have switched on satisfaction, testing scores, impact, etc.

The school district has not provided a rationale to the public for considering this idea. What is driving it? Many working parents do not have the flexibility to change their hours to match a different school schedule. Dual wage parents will be in a bind with children not in school on a work day.

Mostly I'm worried about single parents w no help and more then 1 kids ... it this instants the parent would have to skip a howl day of work. Paying a sitter for 2 or more kids makes it impossible to make any income

## SURVEY RESPONSES, UNEDITED ("SLIGHTLY OPPOSED")

| The extra day of rest could very beneficial for some students but could also make getting motivated on Monday more |
| :--- |
| difficult. |
| Many families depend on the school meals. |
| Longer days will definitely be harder on many students. |
| Impact to parents if athletic programs still have practice on Fridays when kids aren't already at school. |

## SURVEY RESPONSES, UNEDITED ("NEUTRAL")

$$
\begin{array}{|l}
\hline \text { What happens to the teachers contractually. Do they end up working } 5 \text { days a week? If so will they have to bring there school } \\
\text { aged children to school to do work? } \\
\hline \text { The less time a child spends in a government school the better outcomes they have later in life. } \\
\hline \begin{array}{l}
\text { I'm concerned that a school day longer than it is now will negatively impact children with IEP's and learning challenges. Being } \\
\text { able to retain more information in one day may cause students not to retain the same way they do now. I'm also concerned for } \\
\text { the students to use the school as a safe place a warm place a clean place and a place to eat. Unfortunately, in our small } \\
\text { community there are a lot of kids that do not receive everything they need from just home. }
\end{array} \\
\hline \begin{array}{l}
\text { I believe the biggest impacts will be on children and families who need the most help. The more dependent children are on bus } \\
\text { rides to school (and therefore after school practice), meals and school as childcare, the more they will be impacted. } \\
\hline \text { Budget for } \delta_{J} \text { and after school activities } \\
\hline
\end{array} \\
\hline
\end{array}
$$

## SURVEY RESPONSES, UNEDITED ("SLIGHTLY IN FAVOR")

Might be a little more difficult for the elementary students if the days go longer but the extra day of rest could help diminish the tiresomeness of a 4 day week.

Feel that there would be one day a week that I could possibly be more productive with my work output on the job. My day is filled with constant interruptions from phones, parents, students and staff. Also, one less day to try to find sub coverage. But I can also see the negatives as well for parents.

## SURVEY RESPONSES, UNEDITED ("IN FAVOR")

Would shortening the school week turn it in to a all year round school year?
Could have teachers available half day on Fridays for those who need extra help with work or who are not passing or have missing work. Providing buses for a 3 hour day on Friday not required to attend if passing all classes. It would help those students struggling and also keep student on track rest of week to obtain no Friday school.

I am concerned for other families about the lack of access to child care, which doesn't affect me, and children's access to breakfast and lunch, which also won't negatively affect us, but may impact other children who are dependent upon those resources.

Would the school year be extended or would vacation times be affected by the four day schedule?
I support a shorter summer break.
i love it
would there be more days like a smaller summer?
i will get more time to sleep and not be so tired in school
Student (middle-high school) choices along with parent interaction will play a large role in the success of a program like this. Does the school have a fact/statistics model in the works to gather info from grade standings, parents, teachers, office staff to determine, if initiated, the new schedule is headed in the right trajectory at the beginning and what steps to take to either support continued positive or correct negative direction.

## SURVEY RESPONSES, UNEDITED ("STRONGLY IN FAVOR")

My child would benefit from more days at home since our home life is calm and safe. I do worry about other kids who don't have safe spaces at home.
Kids have more time to rest, by Friday they are so exhausted.
I think a 4-day school week would be extremely beneficial for so many families!
I believe the 4 days a week will be a answer to prayer because of the rise of gas and food costs. I also think that the current Friday schedule is a wasted day.
I think going to a 4 day week it would be good to go to a 10 hour day or something close to it. However many hours needed to catch up for losing a day.

 over fewer days. All in all I believe a 4-day school week would be a benefit to most of the students.

A child can work on their creativity and other goals with a four day school week. I see this as very positive.
It would greatly increase student mental health and enable them to engage more because they wouldn't feel so drained
I think the overall out come would be great!!
It's been tried and tested. Let's do it!
I can spend more one on one time with my kids!
 flexibility and help to enhance the educational experience in the Republic School District.

 and burnout often experienced by students and educators, fostering a healthier and more balanced learning environment.

## SURVEY RESPONSES, UNEDITED ("STRONGLY IN FAVOR")

It would be much easier to schedule appointments, schedule family obligations when we have a day every week to accommodate that. Attendance would increase, because we wouldn't have to pull our kids out constantly to do these things. Also town would see increased consumer spending because we would have 2 days to shop instead of just on Saturdays. This would be nothing but benefits for all .
Conservation of some school operating costs and opportunities for maintenance and facilities to complete tasks in a less disruptive manner. Staff training and community culture building and engagement opportunities in addition to all of the aforementioned reasons
Five days a week for families to actually spend time together is never enough. Parents fall behind with home life having to work five days a week on top of their kids going to school five days a week. And having extra curricular activities on top. All of are drained and just need that three day weekend.
This could increase students' ability to participate in community activities
I've read a number of articles with many pros and cons from schools already on a 4 day week. It seems the good may outweigh the bad, especially in more rural schools. There might be a need to push reading at home and in general since one study found the kids dropped in reading but stayed the same in other areas when the schedule was changed. I hope it works out for the best whatever is decided! Thank you!
I think this is something I greatly need so I can spend time with my kids more and then they wouldn't complain so much about the weekend being too short and then they always complain when they come home from school about how tired they are.
For the kids who live rural it would be great to ride the long bus ride one less day.
Would there be friday "open lab" where they can get help with something they don't understand?
i was just wondering if christmas break would be shorter
would it shorten our thanksgiving, winter and spring and summer break?
i would get more sleep so im not tired and $i$ would get more time with my family.
Great survey, I think you covered all pertinent areas! Great luck! It's good for kids! :)

## SURVEY RESPONSES, UNEDITED ("DON'T KNOW")

None of the questions can be meaningfully answered without a clear idea of what the proposed four day per week schedule actually looks like. Please consider providing more information prior to circulating such a survey.


[^0]:    Highest response of "Very Concerned:"
    "Ability to find suitable childcare (29 responses, or 14\% of all responses)

[^1]:    * Unedited comments included in Appendix

