

Four Day Week / Flexible Learning Year / Presentation

Patrick Walsh, Superintendent, BBE Schools, Feb
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Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa School District

- The 4 Day Week began in the Fall of 2011 at BBE Schools. Our current Seniors were in Kindergarten.
- In the near future, none of our parents will have parental experience with the Traditional Week.
- Many of our parents are now former students of the Flexible Learning Year.
- 95%+ of our parents polled in 2019 were favorable



Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa School District Core Values

- A – Advocate for all birth through adult B-A, B-12
- B – Build partnerships with stakeholders, CTE, Jagways
- C – Create ++ student relationships as essential
- S – Set high expectations in all facets, Jaguar Pride
- Every Student, Every Day, Any Way (Personalization)



The Initial Reasons for Adoption

- Maintain a Wide Array of Courses at HS
- Save \$100,000+ yearly in District Finance. Projections included areas such as Transportation, Food Service, Utilities and Paraprofessional costs.
- Improved Student Attendance
- Stakeholder Satisfaction




Current Assessment of Results

- Maintain Courses at HS - CHECK
- Cost Savings - \$50k+ Staffing, \$100k+ Transportation, Utilities <\$10k - CHECK
- Improved Student Attendance - Negligible
- Stakeholder Satisfaction - CHECK
- Test Scores - Mixed and Hard to Say
Pandemic as an example



Unintended Benefits at BBE

- Teacher Recruitment & Retention
 - Maintaining Student Enrollment, perhaps softening a decline
 - Niche / Choice
 - Innovativeness at an exceptionally high rate
 - 99%+ graduation rate over last 5 years.
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From K12dive.com, February 16, 2024

- No statistical change in student achievement, pro/con, particularly in rural schools.
- Decreasing hrs of instruction tends to lead to low achievement
- 22% of all school districts in Missouri are now 4 Day Week, 1600 school districts across the country
- 2021 RAND report suggests that \$\$ is the #1 reason, with / actual amt of savings close to 5% of total costs (similar to BBE)



National Research on 4 Day Weeks

- [Oregon State University College of Health](#) (Thompson, 2021)
- Achievement is lowered if total hours are lowered as a result
- Hours of Instruction is the most important factor, hold constant
- Remember, what would a school district look like with 5% less funds? This makes it hard to measure over long periods of time
- Cost saving measures are equal to other traditional measures



National Research on 4 Day Weeks

- [Oregon State University College of Health](#) (2022)
- Math-Slightly Lower Achievement-0.1 SD, Reading =
- Rural impacts studied have been better than non-rural
- No difference in on-time grade progression or graduation.
- Student Attendance has mixed results



Concluding Questions? / Contact

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