



**News Release**  
For Immediate Release

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## **LIBERTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 25 TRANSITIONS TO FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK**

**BUCKEYE (July 12, 2023)** – Liberty Elementary School District No.25 is pleased to announce the implementation of a four-day school week for the 2023-2024 school year. After months of committee work, research, engagement and discussion with the community, the LESD25 Governing Board approved the change in November 2022. Starting August 7, students will begin attending school four days a week.

“Liberty strives to be a community leader when it comes to innovative teaching and learning practices. This is just another testament to our commitment to teachers, students and families,” said Dr. Cort Monroe, LESD25 Interim Superintendent. “We are eager and optimistic that this change will lead to a fantastic school year.”

The idea was first explored in 2021 as a cost savings measure in response to failing to pass a budget override. After surveying staff and families that following spring, it was clear this idea garnered initial support regardless of how much money it saved. After further research, the District hopes to innovatively solve other issues outside of just saving money. The new four-day school week has the potential to better recruit teachers in a nationwide shortage, decrease both student and staff absenteeism, and decrease poor student behaviors in school.

As the 2023-2024 school year approaches, adjustments and updates have been made to accommodate for the new schedule. Across the district, schools will operate Monday through Thursdays. Previous half-day Wednesdays turned into full days, so school days and instructional time will be extended only 40 minutes– 10 minutes earlier and 30 minutes later. Additionally, the District has an extended day program, L.E.A.P., that will continue its before and after school care, and has the option for families to select full-day childcare on Fridays.

Throughout the new school year, LESD25 will be looking for continued input regarding the dynamics of the four-day week to continually be able to adjust for the success of students, families and teachers.

### **About LESD25**

Founded in 1882, the Liberty Elementary School District No.25 spans 285 square miles including rural and suburban settings. It has grown from a historic one-room schoolhouse, to seven kindergarten through eighth grade schools between Buckeye and Goodyear, educating more than 4,500 students. Each school is tailored to serve students based on their interests through unique signature programs. LESD No.25 prepares all students for success in high school and beyond with engaging and challenging learning environments. Through individual accomplishment, personal leadership, and contribution to their community, children flourish. Discover more at [liberty25.org](http://liberty25.org).

***Cultivating curious, confident, problem solvers prepared for tomorrow.***

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