

# ***School Tour/ Information Gathering Subcommittee***

## ***What We Did:***

- ▶ Toured three 4-day school districts. Tours included Weiser High School, New Plymouth School District, Middleton High School, and two Middleton elementary schools.
- ▶ Consulted with administrators, teachers, parents, & students.
- ▶ Asked questions about experiences, logistics, thoughts, and the effectiveness of a 4-day calendar.
- ▶ Researched through phone calls with numerous other school districts in Idaho & Oregon to gather thoughts and experiences.

## ***Benefits***

### ***Shared from 4-Day Schools:***

- ▶ High satisfaction & less stress reported by staff, students, & families.
- ▶ Increased job satisfaction & productivity.
  - ▶ Decreased absenteeism for staff. Less need for substitutes.
  - ▶ More family time.
  - ▶ Staff reported feeling more rested.
- ▶ Decreased absenteeism for students & staff. Less need for substitutes.
  - ▶ More time for teen work opportunities.
  - ▶ Opportunities for appointments on 5th day.
- ▶ Positive impact on morale, school climate, & energy.
  - ▶ Increased job satisfaction & productivity.
  - ▶ Perception is that everyone is happier.
  - ▶ Teachers said they would never return to a 5 day week.

## ***Challenges***

### ***Shared from 4-Day Schools:***

- ▶ No services on Fridays. Schools did not know for sure how families handle childcare on Fridays.
- ▶ One parent shared he felt 4-day increased the burden on parents to help maintain academics for elementary. Other parents disagreed.
- ▶ One elementary principal reported that students with difficult home lives had increased behavior issues before weekends.
- ▶ Doesn't seem feasible to return to a 5-day week.
- ▶ Requires time management, challenging to fit a 5-day curriculum into 4. Some extras have to be cut.

### ***Of Note:***

- ▶ Feedback from all 4-day schools contacted was overwhelmingly positive.
- ▶ It was difficult identifying challenges within the high praise.
- ▶ Schools reported that 4-day was not academically beneficial but felt the benefits were worth it.
- ▶ All 4-day districts have a single start time, which is not an option in Emmett due to busing needs.
- ▶ Though asked, schools & districts did not provide test scores or other data to reinforce their anecdotal results with 4-day.
- ▶ No schools or districts were actively collecting data to compare 4-day results with previous 5-day results.
- ▶ All schools have apparently successfully made adjustments to overcome all 4-day challenges.