

# LIND-RITZVILLE COOPERATIVE SCHOOLS

## Exploring the 4-Day School Week Community Forums

 **Join Us!** 

**May 28 & June 2 at Lind-Ritzville High School**

**June 3 & June 4 at Lind-Ritzville Middle School**

**All forums will begin at 6:00 PM**

**Please join us on the date and location that works best for you!**

Whether you support or oppose, or are unsure about the 4-day school week, we want to hear from you. Community feedback is guiding this process. Please attend a forum, take the upcoming survey, or contact us directly with your thoughts.

### More Information:

Please click link below or visit the "Proposed 4-Day School Week Information" tab at [www.lrschools.org](http://www.lrschools.org)

### Why Are We Considering a 4-Day School Week?

The idea of a 4-day school week has been under consideration since May 2024. Our goal is to support student learning, recruit and retain great educators, and ensure long-term sustainability for our rural schools. While 89% of the staff and 71% of initial respondents support the proposal, we recognize the importance of including as many community stakeholders as possible while we continue exploring both the benefits and concerns. This flyer summarizes the key considerations and community input to date, including outcomes from a recent strategic planning meeting with educators, parents, and community members.

### What would change?



- School Days: Monday through Thursday
- Extended Day: 8:25 AM–3:45 PM (K-5 dismiss at 3:40)
- Academic Fridays: Up to 9 half-days per year with meals and limited transportation for intervention
- Instructional Time: Instructional time will increase for most K-5 grade levels. Grades 7-12 will increase 10+ hours annually. See schedules on the "Proposed 4-Day School Week Information" tab at [www.lrschools.org](http://www.lrschools.org)



### Potential Benefits: "Why Some Support the Shift"

- **More Rigor with Room to Breathe**  
Longer learning blocks allow for richer discussions, projects, and less rushed instruction. Teachers gain flexibility to go deeper, especially in core subjects like mathematics, science and writing.
- **Improved Attendance and Engagement**  
Districts with a 4-day week report improved attendance and fewer discipline issues. The extra day off helps reduce burnout, especially for students with long commutes and multiple commitments.
- **Improved Teacher Retention and Recruitment**  
A four-day schedule helps attract and retain staff in an increasingly competitive hiring market. It's a unique incentive for all staff.
- **Significant Cost Savings**  
Estimated projections show significant annual savings through reductions in fuel, substitute coverage, and food service costs. These savings help sustain core programs.
- **Stronger Professional Development**  
Dedicated time on Fridays for staff learning and collaboration supports the district's Mastery-Based Learning model. Teachers can better use collaborative time to guide instruction.
- **Rural Fit and Family Flexibility**  
The schedule supports rural lifestyles, schedules, and family time - giving families more options for travel, appointments, additional non-school commitments and downtime together.



### Concerns & Considerations: "What Some Are Worried About"

- **Childcare Challenges**  
The district acknowledges the possible need for affordable, reliable Friday care. We are partnering with local providers and developing opportunities.
- **Long School Day for Younger Students**  
Some worry that younger students will tire easily. Schools report students adjust well and increased movement time and brain breaks help.
- **Food Insecurity on Fridays**  
The district will provide take home meals for Fridays and is partnering with Bite-2-Go to provide additional weekend take-home meal options.
- **Concerns About Learning Outcomes**  
Some ask whether students will fall behind. Evidence from other districts shows achievement remains stable or improves



### What Happens Next?

- Community Forums: Additional sessions scheduled for May 28, June 2, 3 & 4.
- All-Resident Survey: Another survey will be emailed to all Cooperative email participants.
- Waiver Review Timeline: Ritzville Board will revisit the waiver in September 2025.

