



**POST FALLS**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #273

## 4-day School Week “Frequently Asked Questions”

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### Why did the Post Falls School District consider a 4-day school week?

We explored the 4-day school week as a means to attract and retain a workforce since PFSD cannot compete with Washington wages. Staff responses indicated the 4-day school week would be an effective method to both attract and retain personnel.

### Surveys were conducted to determine parent, student and staff interest in the 4-day school week. What were the results of those surveys?

2023 Survey results (March 16-26)	2024 Survey Results (February 1-10)	2025 Survey Results (January 27-February 6)
<b>Parents:</b> 2221 responses of 5430 sent (about 41%) 62% in favor of a 4-day week	<b>Parents:</b> 2215 responses of 5295 sent (about 42%) 76.6% in favor of a 4-day week	<b>Parents:</b> 2220 responses of 5089 sent (about 44%) 81.67% in favor of a 4-day week
<b>Students:</b> 1000 of 1349 high school students grades 9-11 took the survey (about 74%) 69% in favor of a 4-day week	<b>Students:</b> 1047 of 1309 high school students grades 9-11 took the survey (about 80%) 95.51% in favor of a 4-day week	<b>Students:</b> 1008 of 1317 high school students grades 9-11 took the survey (about 76%) 97.42% in favor of a 4-day week
<b>Staff:</b> 548 responses of 766 sent (about 72%) 85% in favor of a 4-day week	<b>Staff:</b> 606 responses of 733 sent (about 82%) 92.24% in favor of a 4-day week	<b>Staff:</b> 606 responses of 725 sent (about 83.5%) 96.2% in favor of a 4-day week

### How many Idaho districts are already on a 4-day school week?

As of March 2026, 94 of the 191 districts and charters throughout Idaho are on a 4-day school week.

### How much longer is my student’s school day in a 4-day week versus the 5-day school week?

The school day is 25 minutes longer for k-8 students (elementary and middle schools), 40 minutes longer for NVHS students, and 50 minutes longer for PFHS students.

**How does the 4-day school week affect instructional time for students? Doesn't the state require a certain number of instructional hours?**

With a 4-day school week, the school day or school year is slightly longer to continue to meet the following annual requirements for instructional hours.

- Kindergarten: 450 hours
- Grades 1-3: 810 hours
- Grades 4-8: 900 hours
- Grades 9-11: 990 hours
- Grade 12: 979 hours
- Alternative high school: 900 hours

**What is the difference in students' instructional minutes between the 5-day and a 4-day school week schedule?**

Grade level	4-day school week yearly hours
K	855
1-3	866
4-5	907
6-8	910
9-11	995
12	982
Alternative high school	910

**What about academic achievement? If students are missing a day of school each week, won't student achievement decrease?**

Districts still need to meet the instructional time requirements regardless of the schedule. For those Idaho districts already on a 4-day schedule, there has been no noticeable change in student achievement. For the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years Post Falls School District analyzed monthly elementary reading data which has shown a positive increase. In fact, at the end of the 2023-2024 *and* 2024-2025 school years, Post Falls School District was Idaho's highest performing large school district on the K-3 Idaho Reading Indicator for both proficiency and growth.

**What are the options for childcare on Fridays?**

GAP will be open from 6:30AM - 6:00PM on Fridays. Families enrolled in GAP during the school year will be eligible to also enroll on Fridays. Check the GAP [webpage](#) for pricing information. In addition, Boys and Girls Club will be open on Fridays and will charge \$10 per Friday.

**Will the district offer breakfast and lunch on Fridays?**

No, this is no longer offered. Free meals were offered during the 2023-2024 year, and few students took advantage of this service. More information about lunchtimes and menus is available on the

"Nutritional Services" [webpage](#). Further, the Post Falls Backpack Program has expanded their weekend program to provide food for qualifying children on Fridays.

### **With a 4-day school week, which day are the students "off?"**

Students attend school Monday - Thursday. (Please refer to the district calendar found on the main page of the district [website](#) for the detailed schedule.) Since some students already miss Fridays due to athletic events and other activities, this maximizes in-school time on the other four days. In addition, the school district consolidates other days off throughout the year to Fridays, such as conferences, teacher work days, professional development days, etc.

### **Will students be schooling at home on Fridays?**

No, nor will they be overburdened with homework. Teachers are maximizing instructional time during the 4-day school week.

### **Why does PFSD start school after Labor Day? Could we start in August and not have to extend the school day or school year?**

Because we live in a tourist area, local businesses such as Silverwood, the CdA Resort and others rely on our students for their service industries.

### **How does a 4-day school week impact students who attend NIC or KTEC?**

Students who attend NIC follow their NIC schedule which may or may not include classes on Fridays. The KTEC schedule is set by all three local school districts.

### **Does a 4-day school week save the district money?**

Though a very small savings may be realized, a 4-day school week is basically cost neutral and typically does not save a district substantial amounts of money. Other districts in Idaho who have been on a 4-day school week longer than PFSD report a 1-3% savings.

### **In addition to staff retention, what other benefits have Idaho districts experienced when they transition to a 4-day school week?**

Districts who have been on this schedule longer than PFSD report the following benefits:

- A decline in student dropout rates.
- A decrease in student disciplinary referrals.
- An improvement in student and teacher attendance rates.
- Less interrupted class time as a result of longer class periods and fewer transitions at all grade levels. There are fewer interruptions by athletic events or other school activities. This increases the efficiency of instruction.
- More positive attitudes about school and improvement in morale.
- More time for quality staff development - - one Friday per month.
- More time for participation in extracurricular activities and for personal appointments such as doctor and dentist appointments.
- If necessary, schools can make up days missed due to inclement weather on what would have been the fifth school day instead of possibly adding days at the end of the year.