



# **Kildeer Public School**

Home of the Cowboys

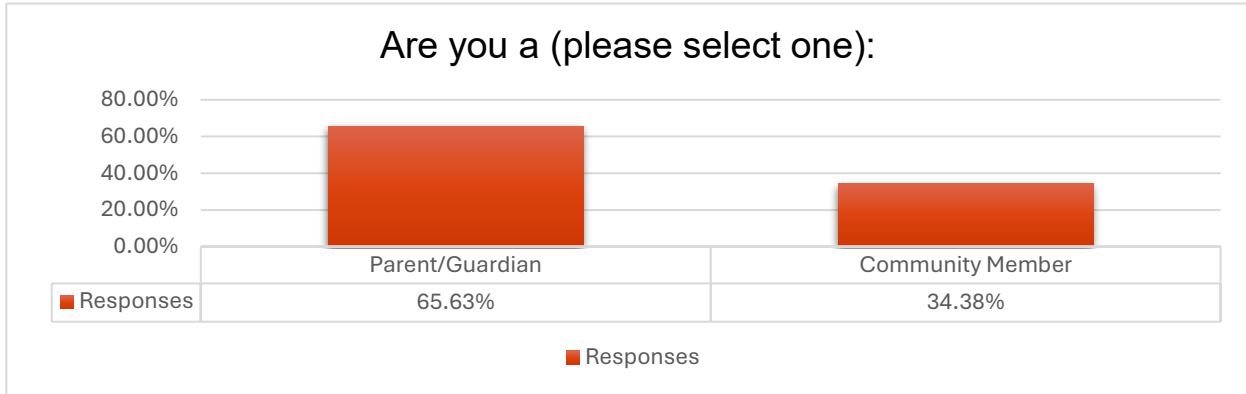
## **Kildeer Public School Community Parent Input Survey SUMMARY REPORT 10.13.25**

**DR. JEFFRY M. SCHATZ CONSULTANT**

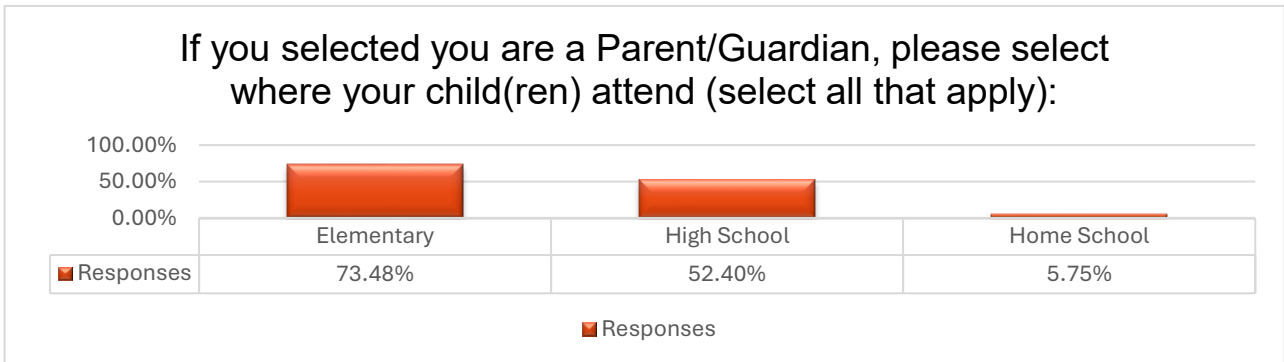


Strategic Planning Consultant

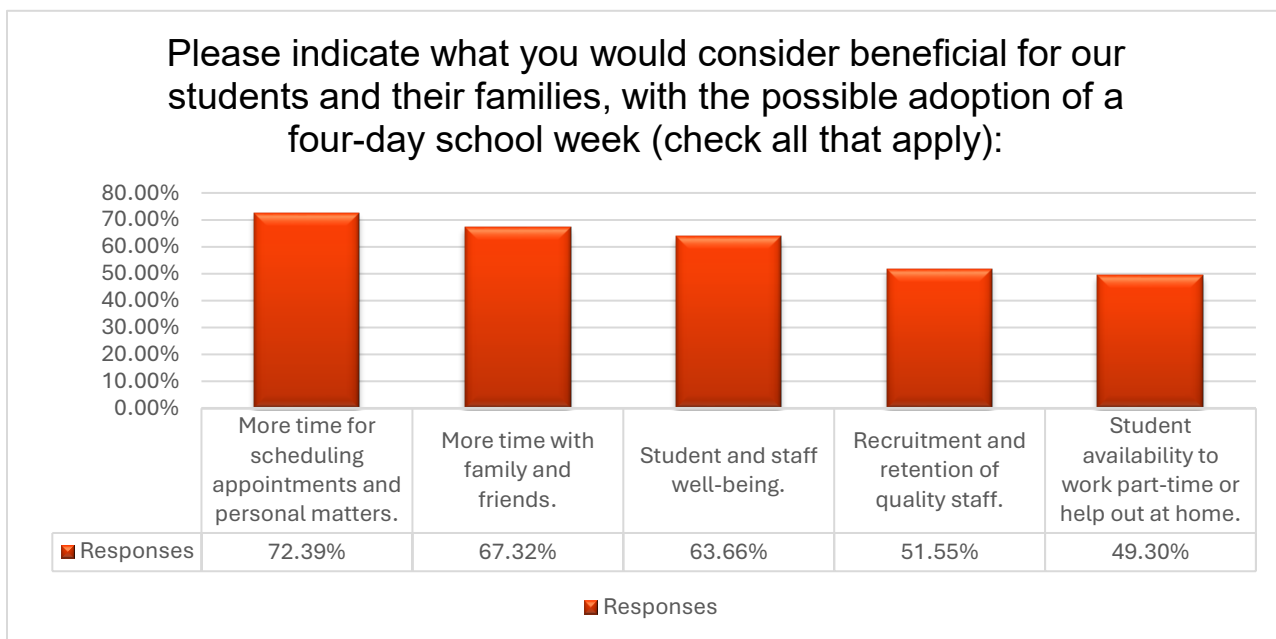
Killdeer Public School Community, Parent, and Guardian Input Survey		
<b>Are you a (please select one):</b>		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Parent/Guardian	65.63%	294
Community Member	34.38%	154



Killdeer Public School Community, Parent, and Guardian Input Survey		
<b>If you selected you are a Parent/Guardian, please select where your child(ren) attend (select all that apply):</b>		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Elementary	73.48%	230
High School	52.40%	164
Home School	5.75%	18
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>313</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>136</b>



<b>Please indicate what you would consider beneficial for our students and their families, with the possible adoption of a four-day school week (check all that apply):</b>		
Answer Choices	Responses	
More time for scheduling appointments and personal matters.	72.39%	257
More time with family and friends.	67.32%	239
Student and staff well-being.	63.66%	226
Recruitment and retention of quality staff.	51.55%	183
Student availability to work part-time or help out at home.	49.30%	175
Other (please specify)		65
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>355</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>94</b>



Other Responses = 65

- Being able to use the "extra day" as a make-up day if the student has to miss a regularly scheduled day
- Do not see where the benefits outweigh the concerns. I do not believe adequate thought is being given to the ramifications of such a life-changing decision
- Don't think it would be beneficial
- Education benefits
- Expand extracurricular activities such as music, art, shop class, etc.
- Friday could be a focus day for kids who fall behind or need specialized one-to-one instruction. They would have more attention from the staff
- Has no benefit

- I believe there is no real advantage outside of more time off or away from the school and teaching. Will this 4-day work week extend the school year? Starting earlier and ending later?
- I could understand this for maybe older kids, but not younger kids. I think this would mess with kids with special needs as well. Especially those who rely on a set schedule. If they are going to change the school to a 4-day schedule, are they planning to change all work schedules to 4 days as well?
- I disapprove of this move.
- I do believe if we went to a 4-day work week. Fridays should be completely off. It still would affect staff and families if we did something. If that is the case, stay for 5 days.
- I don't believe that this is a good idea. This is being rushed by the school board, and actual time needs to be put into this process of what it will look like
- I don't see it as beneficial
- I don't think it would be beneficial
- I have family in Wyoming, and that would be helpful for travel.
- I see no benefits in my current situation
- I see NO BENEFITS to my children or the district
- I think it is a bad idea to give kids the habit of being lazy and not knowing how to work a five-day work week
- I was hoping this had information on the benefits of a 4-day school week
- I disagree
- If this is intended as a benefit for students, then I feel Wednesday would be a better day for teachers to get reset and for them also to help students who need help to get their grades up and such. It doesn't make sense for the off day to be Friday because when are most games "Friday"? If this committee is meant to benefit students, why is it one-sided rather than open-minded, and why is it handpicked to make this four-day work week mandatory? I feel this is not something our school needs, and we should focus more on the reasons teachers are having issues and the need to raise grades, rather than taking it away and saying it's optional for teachers and students to attend the day they decide off. Who's going to show up if it's optional?
- I'm unsure, as I am not aware of the underlying purpose for it.
- Is this a personal want from a school board member?
- Less risk for injury by reducing the number of drivers and buses on the roads 1 day per week
- Less school missed for games - possibility to schedule more Friday games
- Less time on the school bus
- May bring students back to school from home school
- More individualized academic help, if needed, on Fridays
- More time for staff to plan lessons, resulting in less time being spent outside of scheduled hours.
- No benefit (10)

- None of the above should be hiring unqualified staff
- None. There is absolutely no educational benefit.
- Not a fan of the four-day school week
- Not missing school for Friday sporting events, travels, etc.
- Not sure any of these will apply with this change.
- Opportunity for intervention & enrichment
- Our son rides the bus from Grassy Butte 5-days a week. By the time he gets home, it doesn't leave much time for anything else. Basically, eat dinner and go to bed. At least with a 4-day workweek, they would have more of a weekend and could recharge.
- Please don't do the four-day school week. There are too many people with young kids who work 5 days a week, and they won't be able to do so with the 4-day work week. Additionally, people who have sports outside of school won't be able to make it on time because of that. There are many more cons than pros. And sure, mental health days and whatnot, but everyone has done just fine with 5-day school days for this long. I see no point in changing it when so many people would have to flex their schedules because of it.
- Practicing sports
- Provides opportunity to work on math or spelling without the constant of actual homework.
- Reduce the cost of the bus routes
- Rodeo, more outside learning, and the emotional and mental health of the students/staff.
- Should not be seeking this option again
- Sports
- The workforce has changed, and we are using a century-old model of education
- There are very few MINOR benefits that do NOT outweigh the tremendous negative impacts.
- There is absolutely no benefit
- This is a terrible idea... I'm disappointed that the school board is taking the easy way out and pushing their agenda instead of putting our kids first. Shameful
- Too long on the bus, more than 15 hours a week/60 hours a month. Less time to study and do homework.
- Unsure
- We also live 60 miles round-trip from the school, so it would be beneficial to us not having to run around that extra day.
- We could not think of any positive things regarding this 4-day school week. We like Monday-Friday. It has always been like that, so it's better to stay like that. Changing will only confuse children.
- We would also provide an hour of learning at home on Fridays (such as online reflex/reading, etc.)

- What are we going to add to the curriculum to enhance education as part of the 4-day school week?
- Work harder those four school days so you can do JUST sports on weekends. The kids who don't do sports don't learn anything during the week because their teachers aren't there, they're at sporting events, NOT teaching when they should be.
- Wrestling season and many tournaments require being gone on Fridays, which get counted towards unexcused absences

## Themes Identified in Responses to the Four-Day School Week

### Concerns About Educational Impact

- Many respondents expressed doubts about educational benefits, stating there is "no benefit," "no educational benefit," or that the change is "not beneficial."
- Several participants worried that the four-day work week could negatively affect students' learning habits and academic achievement.
- Questions were raised about curriculum changes and whether the shortened week would require extending the school year.

### Impact on Families and Schedules

- Respondents noted challenges for families with young children and working parents, particularly those with five-day work schedules.
- Concerning that the change would disrupt routines, especially for students with special needs who rely on consistent schedules.
- Some mentioned the burden of long commutes and how a shorter school week could offer relief.

### Extracurricular Activities and Sports

- Several responses highlighted potential benefits for sports and extracurricular activities, such as scheduling games on Fridays and providing more practice opportunities.
- Others worried that kids who do not participate in sports might miss out on learning because teachers are away at events.

### Student Support and Individualized Attention

- The idea of using the "extra day" for make-up work, intervention, and one-on-one instruction was mentioned as a possible positive.
- Some saw opportunities for academic help or enrichment on Fridays for students who are behind.

### **Staff Planning and Well-Being**

- A few responses noted that a shorter week could give staff more time to plan lessons and reduce time spent working outside scheduled hours.
- There were mentions of mental and emotional health benefits for both students and staff.

### **Operational and Logistical Concerns**

- Reducing the number of days buses are on the road was seen as a way to lower costs and decrease risks of injury.
- Questions arose about whether the change would bring students back from homeschooling or affect the hiring of qualified staff.

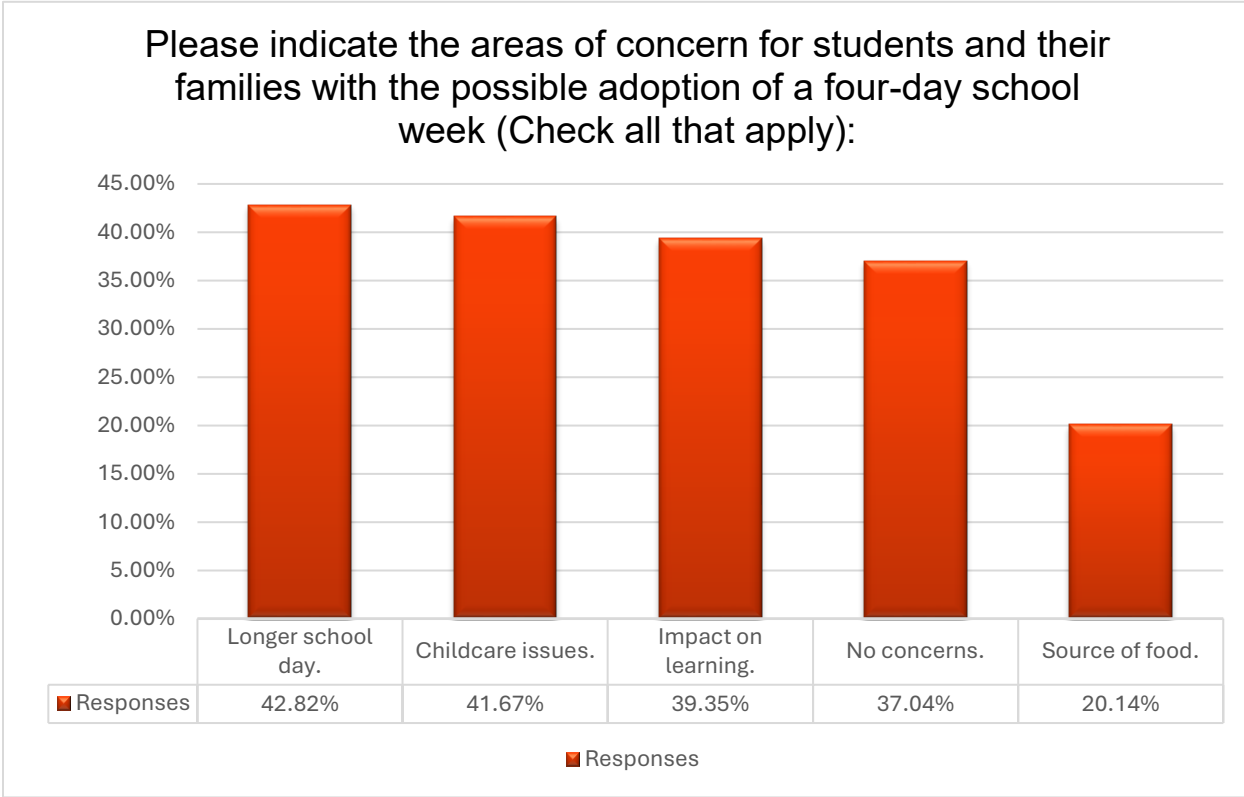
### **Negative Sentiment and Distrust**

- Numerous comments reflected strong opposition, describing the idea as "terrible," "rushed," or an agenda pushed by the school board.
- Some respondents felt the committee was not open-minded and that the process lacked transparency and thorough consideration.

### **Uncertainty and Requests for More Information**

- Several individuals expressed uncertainty or confusion, indicating they did not have enough information about the reasoning or potential benefits of the change.
- Requests for more details about curriculum enhancements and the underlying purpose of the proposal were common.

Killdeer Public School Community, Parent, and Guardian Input Survey		
Please indicate the areas of concern for students and their families with the possible adoption of a four-day school week (Check all that apply):		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Longer school day.	42.82%	185
Impact on learning.	39.35%	170
Childcare issues.	41.67%	180
Source of food.	20.14%	87
No concerns.	37.04%	160
Other (please specify)		56
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>432</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>17</b>



## Other Responses = 56

- Bus routes getting home later
- Again, without knowing what it entails, it's difficult to respond.
- All. We can all cite studies for and against, but studies overwhelmingly show that learning is reduced under a four-day school week.
- Are we saving money
- Athletics and impacts on those schedules
- Athletics and students from outlying areas with already long travel.
- But this is an issue that could be resolved if the 4-day work week went through
- Can be easily adapted & figured out.
- Change of hours students are on the road, attention spans in longer class periods, inability to get through all academic materials EFFECTIVELY, more burden placed on students, is dangerous for their mental health. There are too many concerns to list.
- Considering that my child rides a bus from 6:20 am to 5:10 pm, it would be so much better for all
- Days too long for young students. This would be detrimental to learning and students' attitudes toward school.
- Earlier mornings for our kids to get up to make it to school
- Earlier School Day
- For our Family, it is not affecting us necessarily either way as long as they won't be falling behind.
- Games on the day that we don't have school, would we still have to go to school and go on the bus, or what?
- Getting back to school for practice
- How extracurricular activities will be affected
- I am concerned about ACADEMICS and how they will be negatively impacted by either trying to squeeze 5 days of lessons into 4. I am GREATLY concerned that our ADVANCED students will suffer, as many studies have proven. I am worried that our students who need special services will also GREATLY suffer. The only schools that have 4-day weeks and do it well are very small schools in very small districts.
- I feel you are not going to have the right kids show up for help; the school will end up babysitting the kids who don't want to pay a babysitter. This is not helping the school, and where are we saving money if lunches have to be served and buses have to be run, and how is it that the superintendent can't even answer the teachers' concerns
- I have not seen a plan for how to address these issues. Your decision will have lasting effects on families.
- I think if all schools in the area were switching to a 4-day schedule, it might work; otherwise, it could be a scheduling nightmare.
- I think this depends on age of the children

- If the 4-day school week goes into effect, none of these would be concerns because kids can come to school on the optional Fridays
- If we have a 4-day school week, but still have meals and buses, what's the point?
- Impact on the abilities of students to smoothly transition to the workforce in occupations that do not actively practice highly adaptable work schedules. How many KPS staff will work on the proposed extra day away from school? Will students in homes with little structure and supervision gain or lose in this proposal?
- Impact on Athletics
- Is it more beneficial for the child or is this for the parents and or teachers?
- Kids at home when both parents are working, which leads to problems.
- Kids are getting hungrier at school with longer hours
- Less behavioral monitoring and the ability for kids not to be overlooked by school members who may need extra eyes on families from bad home lives
- Longer school year?
- Lower-income families are unable to afford a day off of work each week, affecting children's well-being
- Missing a day for extracurricular activities will have a greater impact on learning.
- More rigor and stress on the children as well as the staff to meet curriculum requirements. Our kids need LESS direct instruction at desks, in front of Chromebooks (already exceeding AAP guidelines for screen time before even making it home).
- My kids do better with structured days. Having school more days helps with the whole family as we can keep a better routine going. Also, my kids are behind socially, emotionally, and educationally, so school helps them with all these areas!
- My worry is about my kids having to stay longer for sports, especially during the winter months. They have a 45-minute drive home, and deer are horrible if practice goes 30 minutes longer
- No benefit
- Not agree
- Once they get out in the real world a 4-day work week isn't always an option
- One less day away from a positive learning and social environment
- Practices going earlier in the morning or later in the evening
- Rural children on the bus even longer
- Shameful move... this shows that you're not putting our kids first
- Shorter summer to help parents, farming
- Sport scheduling and neighboring communities NOT being able to schedule with us
- Sports, practices, and games
- Teacher well-being, teacher retention, student retention, learning retention, STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH, these are just a small set of concerns. The list of GRAVE CONCERNS like these is a mile long.

- That is too short a work week. You are trying to cram way too much on the students, since they need proper sleep to slowly let everything sink in. I am against a four-day work week.
- There is no benefit that we can think of with this proposed four-day school week.
- Time for trouble kids to get into more trouble and drugs
- Under the impact on learning, I worry about all kids struggling to retain five days of information in four days. Plus, add extracurricular activities during the week.
- Well, considering that Killdeer District #16 is in the bottom 50% academically nationwide, this is a terrible idea. A parent's number one priority should be their child's success, and in my opinion, it would be more logical to implement a 6-day school week at this point.
- Where would children go on Fridays when parents work during the day?
- Who's benefiting? It's definitely not the majority of kids who don't play sports
- With longer school hours, people could struggle more because teachers would teach more per day, and so students would have less time to complete it. Some people (me included) struggle to get homework done and end up doing it at 8-ish, or not at all, and if not, days late.
- Worried about how teachers will fill their days. We need less tablet/computer time in the classroom, the way it is.

## Themes Identified from Comments on the Four-Day School Week

### **Academic Concerns:**

- Many comments express worries about reduced learning, difficulty covering all academic material effectively, and potential negative impacts on advanced and special-needs students.

### **Student Well-Being and Mental Health:**

- Respondents are concerned that longer school days may negatively affect students' attention spans, mental health, and attitudes toward school. Stress and increased burden on students are mentioned frequently.

### **Transportation Issues:**

- Several comments mentioned longer bus routes, earlier mornings, and extended travel times, especially for rural and outlying students. There is concern about the impact on students' schedules and safety.

### **Impact on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities:**

- There is uncertainty about how sports, practices, and games will be scheduled, especially when school is not in session. Concerns include students needing to return to school for practice and the effect on students from distant areas.

**Family and Childcare Challenges:**

- The impact on families, especially those with working parents, is a recurring theme. There are concerns about childcare on days off, lower-income families struggling to adapt, and children being unsupervised.

**Routine and Structure:**

- Some comments note that students and families benefit from the structure of a five-day week, and worry that less structure will negatively affect social, emotional, and educational development.

**Financial and Operational Questions:**

- Respondents question whether the change actually saves money if buses and meals must still be provided. There is skepticism about financial logic and the lack of clear planning.

**Teacher and Staff Concerns:**

- There are worries about teacher well-being, retention, and how teachers will use their days. Concerns include more direct instruction, increased screen time, and the challenge of meeting curriculum requirements.

**Social and Behavioral Impacts:**

- Comments highlight worries about less behavioral monitoring, more opportunities for trouble, and the potential for at-risk students to suffer without the supervision and support the school provides.

**Community and Scheduling Issues:**

- There is concern about coordinating with neighboring communities, the potential for scheduling nightmares if other schools do not switch, and the effect on local routines, such as farming.

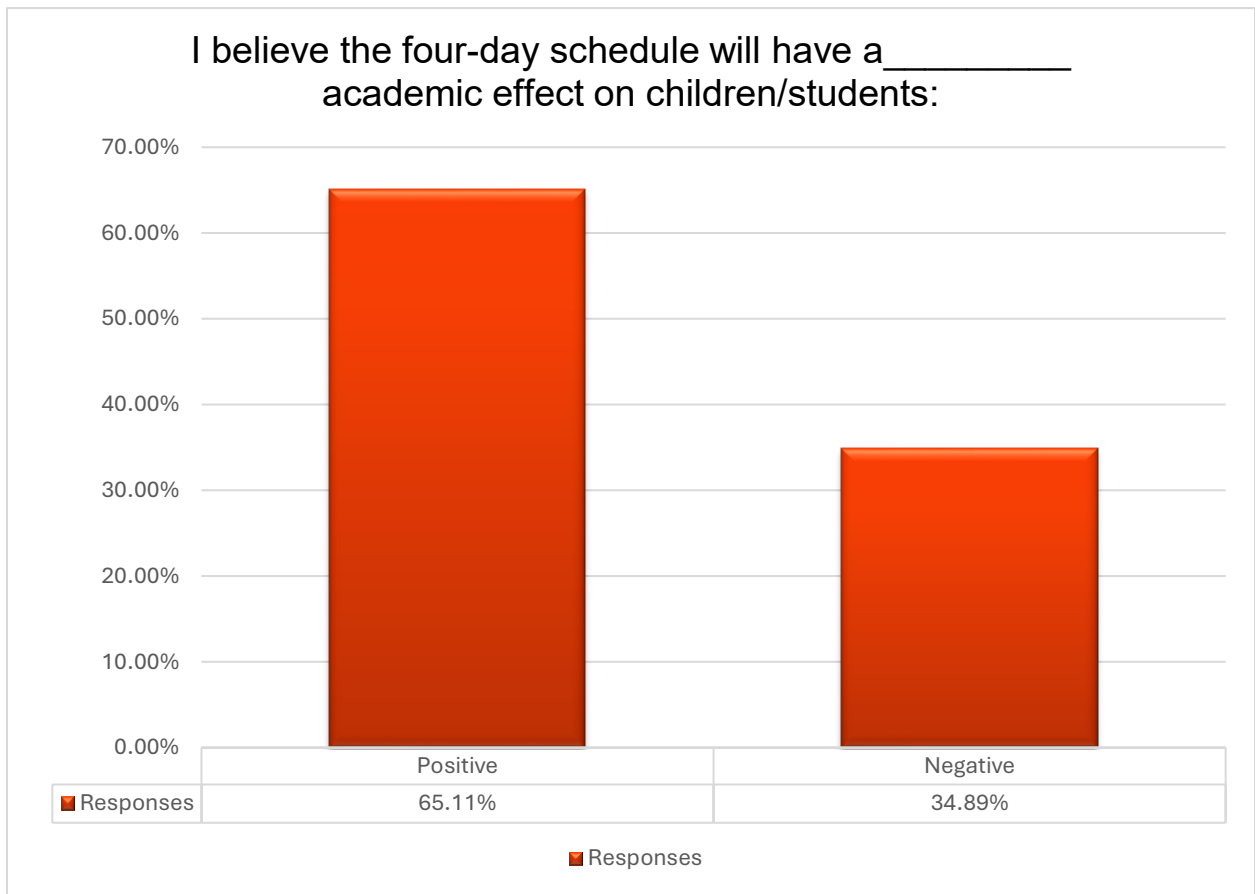
**Lack of Perceived Benefit:**

- Some respondents feel there is no clear benefit to the proposed change, and believe it does not put students first.

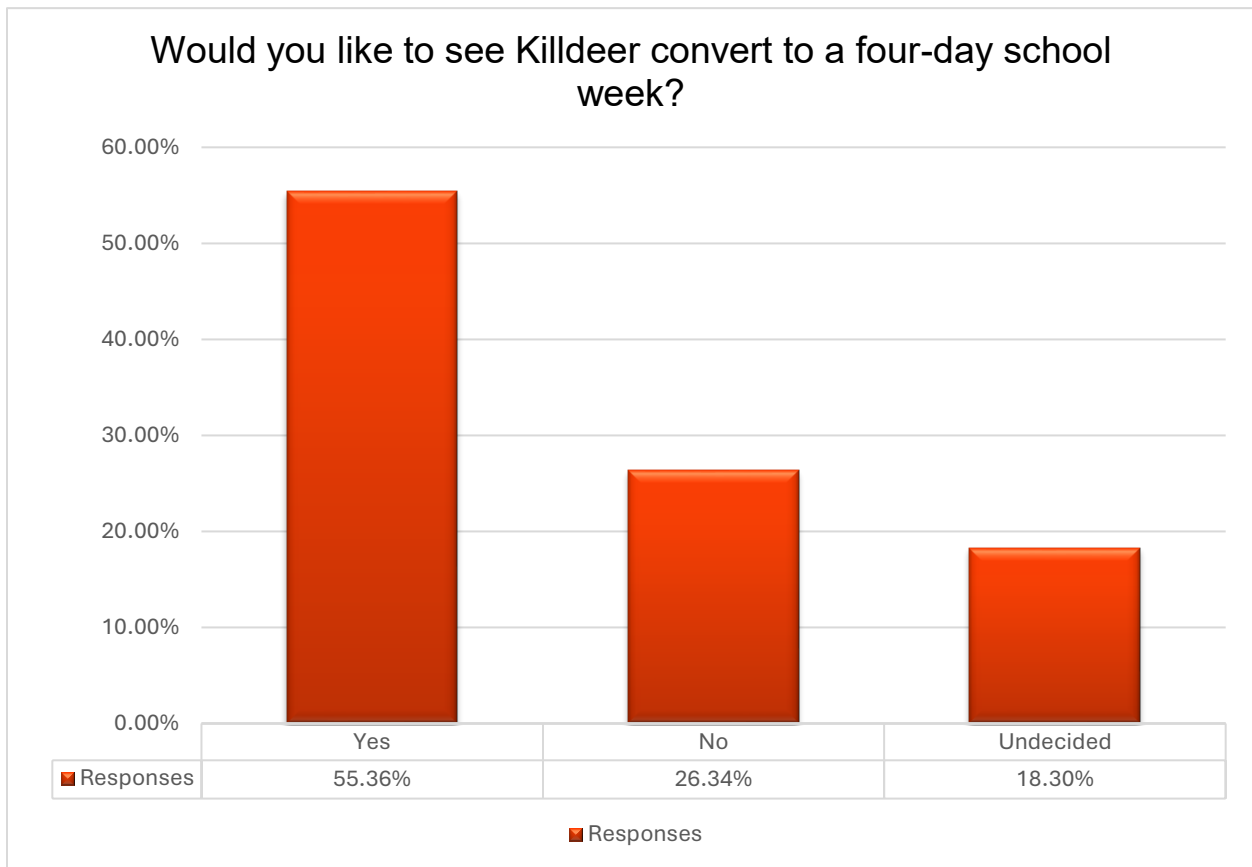
**General Uncertainty and Need for More Information:**

- Several comments indicate that without a clear plan or understanding of what the change entails, it's difficult to respond or support the proposal.

Killdeer Public School Community, Parent, and Guardian Input Survey		
I believe the four-day schedule will have a _____ academic effect on children/students:		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Positive	65.11%	278
Negative	34.89%	149
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>427</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>22</b>



Killdeer Public School Community, Parent, and Guardian Input Survey		
Would you like to see Killdeer convert to a four-day school week?		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	55.36%	248
No	26.34%	118
Undecided	18.30%	82
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>448</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>1</b>



Killdeer Public School Community, Parent, and Guardian Input Survey	
<b>Please leave any additional comments below.</b>	
<b>Answered</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Skipped</b>	<b>324</b>

Responses =125

- I think it is a bad idea.
- 3 of my siblings live in school districts that have adopted the 4-day school week, and I have only had positive feedback from all of those family members and their school districts
- A four-day school week could be quite beneficial for students and staff. Think about time for appointments, time with your families, time for at-home tasks, time for rest and relaxation, and set Fridays for prep/planning so teachers don't have to cut into personal time as much. However, extending the school day will, of course, require children to rise even earlier in the morning, resulting in even less sleep when we know most don't meet healthy sleep requirements as it is. School days are too long as they are. Using Fridays to meet IEP minutes would be utterly ridiculous. There are children on IEPs who have siblings who are not. Would this mean an IEP student would have to be bused in, or driven in on Fridays, when their siblings get the pleasure of staying home on Fridays...this would most certainly be felt and seen as a punishment for SPED kids. Hourly staff would HAVE to come in on Fridays to meet the hourly requirements to be considered full-time staff. Most of these employees have children, which means those children would more than likely HAVE to come to school on Fridays because their parents work there. Once again, a group of adults/children/family units is losing out on that extra time. A four-day course sounds excellent, and I think it would be great if done right. The proposed Fridays and longer days just seem like yet another thing being done to "help streamline", make things better, etc., but it will just be one big pain in the rear end. Maybe we prioritize well-being while we are AT school. Once again, another school year, another year of sitting in desks, watching videos, then doing work on Chromebooks, sitting for most of the day, then getting scolded for making noise. Let's not forget that we can't allow children to move through hallways any other way than in a manner that mimics how prisoners are shuffled down corridors. We know HOW children should be educated and what is best for them, developmentally. Unfortunately, we still can't put it into action. It's only the start of the school year, and the dread is palpable.
- A four-day school week can have several negative consequences for students, families, and communities. One major concern is the potential for decreased instructional time, which may hinder academic achievement and make it more challenging for students to grasp complex subjects. Additionally, parents might struggle to find suitable childcare or supervision for the extra day off, which can lead

to increased stress and financial strain. For students who rely on school-provided meals or services, losing a day can impact their well-being and access to essential resources. Furthermore, a shorter school week may result in longer school days, which can be exhausting for younger children and reduce time for extracurricular activities, homework, and family interaction.

- After 5 days, kids are too worn out at the end of the week. 3 days off would improve their well-being and let them do more at home and spend time with their family. Their time at home is short before they graduate from high school.
- "As a parent, I'm really excited about the idea of a 4-day school week. I think it could give students a chance to recharge, spend more time with family, and return to the week ahead more focused.
- As a parent, I think that this will not be beneficial for the students. It has always been 5-day school days —why does it change now? This will create confusion with the children. Another reason is childcare. Most working parents work from Monday to Friday. Not all parents have a day off on Friday.
- If there are teachers available on the day off.
- As of now, without information as to why you want to transition to a 4-day school week, I cannot say for sure that it will be a negative or positive impact. I hope to be educated on the matter, as I may end up being persuaded that it is a good thing.
- Concerns some may have would be working parents who would need to find childcare. Which is hard enough to find in the area. Since most daycares in the area are already full.
- Could help with busing & many other things. It could be cost-effective. But the main concern should always be the children and the families. The quality of Time spent in school could override Quantity.
- DRK #1
- Families have more positive things to say about a 4-day school week than negative and say they would never go back to a traditional 5-day week. As a family that lives far out of town, a longer school day wouldn't bother my kids if it meant having Fridays off
- For parents who work, this is a horrible idea. Not everyone in the killdeer community is a stay-at-home parent. These parents are already catered to with events during school hours that working parents are unable to attend, but then to punish working parents further by trying to find daycare is ridiculous.
- From little research I have done, academic benefits are mixed. I think it depends on the school district and the parents/community. A lot of dentists, eye doctors, and offices like that are closed on Friday, so scheduling appointments won't necessarily be easier.
- Grandkids attended Halliday School on a 4-day schedule in winter. It worked well & we all wished it had lasted the entire school year.
- Has ANYONE in a higher-up position ever stopped to consider THE STUDENTS AND STAFF??? Sure, it doesn't appear like it. If 4 days were such a fantastic thing, ALL

schools would do it. The scheduling of classes, curriculum, and academics is an ABSOLUTE NIGHTMARE, and one has stated herself would fall to the admin who are already overloaded as it is. Shame on those who are pushing this without giving any thought to what it will do to our school and its environment.

- I have heard very positive things from friends who are teachers in a 4-day school week!
- Having that extra day is a great time to be with family and a reset to decompress.
- How does this affect non-salaried staff?
- If non-salaried staff are required to come in on Friday to keep their full-time status, how do you plan on retaining staff?
- How is this cost-effective for the school?
- Will these concerns actually be addressed?
- Have they considered a break on Wednesday?
- Are the schools you are modeling after successful?
- What are their SPED and 504 rates?
- What is Alexander's school population vs Killdeer? I have heard they are on an improvement plan and are going back to 5 days.
- What is the teacher-to-student ratio, and if homeschooling students come back, how does this affect the teacher-to-student ratio, and what will the school do to compensate for an increase in this ratio?
- How early will morning practices be and evening practices? Currently, a high school student leaves at 6 in the morning for practice and, on the same days, doesn't get home until 8. How does this improve family time?
- I am fine either way with it. Even if we do a semester as a trial run without being fully committed. If it doesn't work, we can still go back to full-time.
- I am tired of the negative conversations and division that this topic has brought about due to the misinformation. Some people feel blindsided, and others think this was all brought on by teachers so "they can have another day off". I do not really have an opinion on which direction we should go however, I do have an opinion on the divide it has brought to the community and the schools
- I am undecided if a 4-day schedule will have a positive or negative academic effect on our children. My child loves being at school.
- I believe it will be a positive thing for staff and students and their mental health!
- I believe learning takes place best with multiple short sessions. Shortening the week reduces those opportunities.
- I believe this change will be a massive benefit for the well-being of students, allowing more time for rest and personal interests.
- I believe we need to see how a four-day work week would be more beneficial for education/scores over our current 5-day week to make it worth it. In addition, my child doesn't need any additional help, so I wouldn't want her to be forced to attend school on Fridays because she needs childcare. Yes, she already goes on Friday, but so do all her friends. If she is required to go there just for daycare and all her friends

are off, it will be more like a punishment for her. And if my wife takes Fridays off from school to take care of my daughter, that's more than 30 days of missed pay for her.

- I don't agree with the 4 days of school.
- I don't quite understand the reasoning for it at this point. If the school is still available for students, including lunch and buses, why does it need to change? One of my children has a slight attention issue, and a longer day would not benefit him. As a family with both parents working full-time, the standard school week works well for us. Not fully understanding the desire to change it.
- I don't have enough information about this topic to answer these questions.
- I feel the school system in Killdeer School is not a positive place to work and demands and needs are not being taken care of, with behavioral issues in both schools. We might as well throw the handbook in the garbage and put out the dumpster fires daily. The name game can only go so far; dress codes aren't followed, discipline seems to go out the window too, and teachers are daily distracted in class by disruptive kids— no wonder they need a reset day. I feel that if this goes through on Wednesday, it would be a better fit than on Friday. If they miss school on a Friday, it is what it is. I vote NO for a four-day. Fix what's broken in our school first
- I fully support the exploration of the benefits of a 4-day work week. I've seen it be very successful in other districts I've lived in.
- I grew up in Wyoming, going to a public school where I did 4-day school weeks since the early 80s (Sheridan, WY School District 1). Our school prioritized playing sports, where we had to miss the least amount of schooling possible. We only did sport events on Thursday nights, Fridays, or Saturdays. However, Wyoming travels further for sports games than most ND schools, it was another way to ensure kids attended the whole 4 days. Our school also offered Friday school, with a teacher rotation on those days. It was mandatory for kids failing classes to attend Friday school, 8-12. No bus transportation or meals were provided on this day. This encouraged students to keep grades up to avoid having to attend school on Fridays, since most kids did not attend. As a student, I absolutely loved 4-day school weeks. Now, as a mother, I would also love to see my children in school for 4 days and spend more time with them on the weekend. I truly believe this would benefit Killdeer School academically, have a positive impact on faculty, and provide students with better quality time at home. Please strongly consider this and do not take it lightly. Thank you.
- I have heard nothing but good comments from other families from other schools with a 4-day school week
- I have left comments above. I am not a Killdeer parent but was asked to fill this out too. As this is to trickle down the line...
- I have only heard positive things from parents and staff of other 4-day school weeks.
- I have thought considerably about the advantages and disadvantages of the four-day school week. The biggest benefit I see is the opportunity to bring quality

teachers to our school and retain them. But I do feel like the disadvantages outweigh the advantages by far. First and foremost, I feel like it sets our children up for an unrealistic view of the real world. 5% or fewer districts nationwide use a 4-day school week. I agree that many jobs use shortened workweek schedules (e.g., medical/shift work), but most occupations require a five-day workweek.

- Most importantly, I worry about the academic growth of our children. Studies show that four-day school weeks significantly impact elementary school children. If you look at our current data, you can see that our academics in Killdeer are not stellar. I've worked in several other school districts in other states, and I can tell you that, in Killdeer, academic growth is clearly behind.
- Athletics in Killdeer is highly valued. A four-day school week would significantly impact this area as well. I have seen firsthand in our area many students who have gone into homeschool settings in their homes, but often they are working for their families. I don't feel like this is a bad concept, but I do feel like education and allowing students the opportunity to grow in a school setting with peers is important. I fear that many families will use this opportunity to have their children work on the extra day. I believe our high school does a great job of implementing work-study programs, allowing students to work during the school day, giving them the chance to learn about different jobs and to fulfill their academic studies.
- And finally, childcare in Killdeer is few and far between. I understand there are plans for a school "daycare" activity option. But would this cost families? Would this cost the district substantially more? I know many families in our area can financially support their students in every way possible, but I also know we come from a very transient community that lacks resources for childcare, food, and housing.
- Thanks for taking the time to listen to everyone's concerns:)"
- I have visited with friends and family who have 4 days, and they all have positive experiences. Our school district needs this change.
- I hope a lot comes into consideration when it comes to longer days for the children. My kids have a great sleep schedule, but on school days, they wear them out. My kids don't get home from the bus till after 4:00 pm, which already makes for a long day.
- We like the routine that we have for the 5 days. And we love it when there's an extended weekend on occasion, but I don't see 4-day weeks as beneficial in the long run for our kids.
- I think it would be great if we did 5 days off for spring break, for traveling or just a break in general. "
- I hope that if this is adopted, we continue to consider what is best for the CHILDREN. If students start to fall behind, we need to be proactive. I don't believe school is a daycare and should not be used as such.
- I put my comments above, but I have plenty more reasons why we should not adopt the 4-day work week. There would be plenty of both positive and negative effects, but personally, there would be more negative effects among more students than

not. Plus, 7th graders have enough problems getting used to the schedule, and some of their older siblings help, and then they get the hang of it faster, whereas if we do this, their older siblings will not be able to help, and the current 8th graders will have to get used to a 3rd different schedule. There are so many reasons we should not do this, and I have stated many, but there could be many more I have not mentioned. Please consider absolutely everything that could be a problem.

- I see both positive and negative aspects to both sides.
- I think a 4-day work week would be beneficial; however, I believe school resources still need to be available on day 5 for extra tutoring or exploring other learning opportunities such as an Art class, Music, theatre, Shop/trade skills, etc.
- I think an example of what an expected school day/week/month would look like for both students (elementary/high school) and teachers would be helpful. Also, to include sports schedules.
- Would the school be open on Fridays? If so, what would that look like?
- Are we considering a 4-day work week to benefit our rural families &/or cut back on costs? What are the main goals with the switch?"
- I think it only benefits the teachers, and it would do huge disservice to the community. If they feel that it's going to get more homeschooled kids to come back, you have another thing coming.
- I think longer days are too complicated for elementary students. They will burn out towards the end of that, just as adults do with long shifts. Honestly, I see this as a preference among teachers and staff for more personal time off. I appreciate our teachers and school staff. Teachers are educated professionals who work hard and do their job, but I get frustrated with the constant need for more benefits, more money, etc. Sometimes I feel it depicts the culture of unions that are always dissatisfied and project an opposing stance toward their profession, i.e., a sense of victimhood. I am very appreciative of teachers and have been happy with my students' education in Killdeer but feel this 4-day school week is another maneuver to do less. All jobs and professions are challenging. I am a professional who works many hours past my scheduled time. That's life in the working world
- I think there are way too many negatives and hurdles to putting this into play to make this a beneficial change.
- I think this is a great idea. I've seen positive success in many other school districts doing 4-day school weeks and have witnessed only positive outcomes for students, staff, and families
- I think this is a rushed decision being pushed for not the correct reasons. Fifteen years ago, the school went through this process, and it took multiple years. Sports is not a reason to change the calendar.... We need to get back to students first.
- I think this will be so beneficial for our kids, and they want to attend school more. Kids are expected to do a lot these days, and I feel that giving them a day every week to relax and catch up will have a positive impact.

- I think we need to look at new and innovative ways to attract and retain educators, and this is one
- I worry about the academic impact on students who are already struggling.
- I would be lost if this goes through.... what will I do.... I will have to transfer to another district or homeschool my 3 kids. ...what a shame
- I would have loved to work only four days a week, but I do not feel that this would benefit the students academically. And then there is the whole childcare debate. We do not have enough childcare as of today!
- I would like to see the real data confronting the gossip or proving the issue of lower test scores in schools with a 4-day school week.
- Also, is there extra state funding for Fridays to cover the extra wages that teachers will earn on this day? It concerns me that we are already in a budget deficit, and logic tells me we need additional funds to cover it. Otherwise, I'm a definite yes.
- I would like to see this come to a Killdeer district school vote
- I would need more information on how a Friday would be structured for students whose parents work during the week.
- I wouldn't want to see any homework being sent home at all. That extra time could be a study hall for kids who need it.
- I'd like to see AWAY sports games like volleyball, basketball, and track/field be coordinated on Fridays.
- If the 4-day work week does not pass, we would like to see consideration for a school year to begin after Labor Day and still end just before Memorial Day
- If you count how many Fridays are on the school calendar, you will find that kids would get more hours per year with a four-day school week than five, especially if they go to the optional Friday school. If the busses wouldn't run, it would save a ton of money.... But I know that the plan is to have them run. Maybe there would be fewer buses on Fridays.
- I'm still up in the air. My kids did track schooling in Vegas, which was bad for my kids. I'm undecided if a 4-day work week would be better or worse. I plan on attending the meeting to see what changes. But if they did a 4-day workweek, it would make taking long weekends a little easier for family trips or going out of town for a weekend. The extra time each day in school might work out better. Instead of getting off at 3 pm, she gets off at 4 pm. I'm for that idea.
- In the same way a new school building doesn't improve academic test scores, a shortened school week doesn't improve academic test scores.
- Most parents work on Fridays.
- Keep this shit up, and you won't have any students to worry about. Everybody is going to transfer to Trinity or homeschool.
- Isn't it better to try and fail than not try at all!? Killdeer needs to try something to attract licensed instructors and prevent enrollment from dropping.

- It is hard to plan when we do not have information about how the day and school year will look. I am very concerned about the children whose parents work 5 days a week. Please provide more details before asking for a final decision.
- It would allow for additional outside time, which is a necessity for mental health
- It would be nice to be able to take a 3-day weekend now and then when we take PTO at work and can do a couple of short trips with the kids. I can also see more benefits and fewer drawbacks for high school-aged kids, who can be at home on their own and can work or help at home, on the farm, or on the ranch. For elementary-aged kids, I do not see a great benefit in a 4-day work week. What could end up happening is that the kids will be at the school 5 days per week, no matter what (assuming the school will have a 5th day program of some kind), because both my husband and I work outside the home, plus they will be at school longer, 4 of those days. This results in a significantly longer school week for them. They could easily get burned out from those long days and the overall longer time spent at the school. Most other professions work 5-day workweeks, especially in global or national industries, which is the case with our family. I really feel that, for elementary-aged children, having five school days per week with shorter days is a more reasonable and practical option than 4-day weeks with longer days and a 5th-day school program. I can certainly see more benefit in 4-day workweeks for high school-aged kids. I do want to say that Killdeer is a great district, and we greatly appreciate the teachers, staff, administration, and board. I know that any decision must balance the opinions and needs of all parties affected, but I do hope that the good of children and families is given the most weight in decision-making. I would love it if our society supported a 4-day work week for every profession, but I'm not confident it's a real possibility. Having a school week that mirrors the 5-day working week, at least for elementary, especially for families of working parents, would appear to me to be the most prudent option.
- It would be nice to know the benefits for the students. Is it cost-saving for the school district? I think people could make a better analysis if they provided information on why this change would be good for the kids, teachers, and the school district. Also, what can parents do with children on Fridays when they are working a 5-day work week, especially with parents who both work or are single parents? Killdeer already has a shortage of available daycare
- It's worth trying. Talking with multiple parents who come from communities with the 4-day school week. All positive feedback after making the switch.
- Killdeer school is already one of the lowest-scoring in the state. Why would going to 4 days help in any way!? This should be voted on like it was in the past and failed.
- King 2
- Life is too short. The days go by too fast. Our kids are little for only a short time.
- Longer days for sports as well. Kids and families are already tired. Fridays should stay the same as a normal week, or the weekend starts when the bell rings at the end of the day on Thursday. The point for 4 days is to refresh for a 3-day weekend. If

there is still an option to go on Fridays, that does not give all staff and staff kids a break. The staff with kids will have to find childcare, which does not provide them with a break.

- Look at our test scores. Where is the research showing that a 4-day work week will increase them?
- Main concern we are saving money, or it is a personal choice issue
- Montana has 4-day school weeks and has only benefited from this change. The school board should reach out to other schools in Montana if they have questions about the change or its pros and cons.
- More unsupervised free time will not be beneficial for students.
- Dentists are closed on Fridays. Most visiting specialists, such as an orthodontist or Face and Jaw, come on Wednesday or Thursday.
- Why are kids doing the survey?
- Kids get home late enough from activities without extending the day, and when they have morning practice, you are looking at an already long day for them. How is less time in the classroom beneficial to a student? Perhaps the school's toxic level should be addressed before we take a step this big. Ask yourself why your employees are unhappy. How does this become cost-effective if school is open on Friday? What staff will be there? If my student struggles in math and the math teacher doesn't volunteer to come in on Friday, who will help them? Lots of concerns from this parent.
- Most people work on Fridays, so parents would have to find daycare for children who can't stay by themselves. The last 1/2 hour of the day, children are not focused on learning; mentally, they're already done. How is 2 hours a week going to make up for a day of school?
- Moving to a four-day work week could create some cost savings that could be passed onto the teachers' wages.
- My children are already exhausted after school, moving to a 4-day work week concerns me because of the longer days they will then have, and a shorter break for holidays means less quality family time. If the students had Fridays off, that wouldn't necessarily give them more family time, as parents still need to work and, depending on age, may need to provide extra care, increasing parents' childcare expenses.
- My daughter needs additional help in school. I'm not sure how this would affect the amount of time she would receive this extra help.
- My main concern is for the students who don't come from great homes. As a teacher, I see students from all kinds of situations, and I want to make sure we always give them a safe place. My thought is that we could eliminate a day a week for a student who needs to be somewhere safer than their home. However, with the option of a Friday program, that concern could be eliminated as well.
- Only concern is we need some place for kids to go/do while parents are working during the day. Personally, we don't have family around here to watch our kids.

- Please consider not only what the us community members have to say about this matter, but also what the teachers and staff members have to say. They are the ones working with our kids every day, and I would hate to see them affected by this negatively. I am concerned about teachers leaving because they have to be at school earlier, as school starts early.
- Please make the change
- Please, please, please- YES to a 4-day school week!!!! It would be so beneficial for our rural community!
- Primary concerns would be the time to teach our children the same content in a shorter time, especially for kids who struggle.
- Really need to think about childcare on Fridays- should be free if that is required, as not every family can afford to pay for that. Also, we will have to think about kids with learning problems/ADHD and how a longer school day will affect their attention span.
- Reports of other places that have done this show real positive results. One less day for busing. Some parents might have childcare issues for that one day. Seems more good than bad from the reviews I have read."
- Research indicated that the higher intensity of daily commitment can lead to higher absenteeism. Is there support for addressing the extra effort required of teachers and parents for childcare and for educating children about time management? Truancy support/social worker to assist is proactive.
- Sports and extra busing on days off, inconsistent home schedules, making it harder for young people to keep a routine that allows for more behavioral concerns
- Students would still receive the required instructional time, and this would allow students to follow the absence policy more effectively.
- Thank you!
- Thanks for doing the survey to get the full public opinion!
- The 4-day school week seems to have been brought about by a very small minority, but will affect ALL. It is coming across as the agenda of a few and not A VOICE OF THE PEOPLE! I am again concerned about ACADEMICS and how they will be negatively impacted by either trying to squeeze 5 days of lessons into 4. I am GREATLY concerned that our ADVANCED students will suffer, as many studies have proven. I am concerned that our students who need special services will also GREATLY suffer. The only schools that have 4-day weeks and are doing it well are very small schools with very small districts. ZERO consideration is being given to students who are in sports and clubs that have contests during the week. ZERO consideration is being given to how this will affect our driving kids who don't just live minutes from school. ZERO consideration is being given to how this affects our at-risk populations. ZERO consideration is being given as to how this WILL affect teacher retention, teacher mental health, and the ability to retain/recruit GOOD and EFFECTIVE teachers. In fact, it appears as though ZERO consideration has been given to ANYONE but a few.

- The four-day work week seems to be more beneficial for older students, but I see no benefits for elementary students.
- The school board is rushing this decision without putting the required work into it. In the conversation, I have seen that the school board has already made up its mind and is using students to sway the survey results. I would hate to see the school board move this way without providing details of how to overcome the challenges. Is the school going to open a daycare for my kids while I'm at work, and how much will I have to pay?
- There are SO many positive benefits to adopting this schedule. I have been in favor of this since our school first researched it 20 years ago. Thank you for being open to different ways to reach and benefit everyone. I applaud you for considering this for our students!
- There's absolutely no benefit to a four-day talk with the residents of Killdeer and our community members, all sides of the city limits. School board members should be ashamed of trying to push this.
- They have so much curriculum now to learn, wouldn't it be pushing them to learn it in 4 days, fewer hours, etc.?
- This is great! Hopefully it is implemented!
- This was attempted in the past, and it was a bad idea then, and it's a bad idea now.
- This would be one of the worst moves in Killdeer Public School's history!!!
- Too much unsupervised time for the children to get into trouble, or too much screen time
- Travel time with buses and safety. They already travel in some darkness with a longer school day in the middle of winter; they will travel in almost complete darkness both before and after school.
- Unsure at this time as to the benefit for elementary.
- Need more information on the proposed 4-day work week.
- Unsure due to lack of information and what the 4-day school week would look like. Pros vs cons of this plan, and what other schools that have adopted this think.
- Brilliant thing to do.
- We are not in favor of this. Children will have nothing to do at home on Friday but to use their gadgets, and that is for sure. Plus, most working parents have work on Friday.
- We have enough unrest in this world with children in school 5 days a week. What will they do with their time if they are only occupied for 4 days?
- We have more to gain than lose, and if down the road something does not seem to be working for our community, we can always go back to five-day school weeks.
- We plan on attending the informational meeting to see things on both sides.
- We were for it years ago when our children attended Killdeer school, and we are for it in the hopes that our grandchildren will attend Killdeer school.

- What kind of online or advanced classes can be offered on Fridays? It's hard to plan for or against with the questions on this survey. It doesn't seem like there is anything tied to education.
- When would school start and end? I think kids have a hard time as it is, going to school for as long as they do. Also, wouldn't that mean teachers and staff would also need to be at school earlier?
- While many school districts ponder four-day workweeks, the overall education, test scores, and academic learning in the state of North Dakota lag behind many other states in our region. Recently, a student from a neighboring school district with high academic achievement moved to Nebraska and was put in a remedial math class. The student was a high academic achiever, so it was quite a disappointment. Schools with large class sizes and absent parents will likely have a higher rate of getting in trouble.
- Why is the school board pushing this? Do you know how this will negatively impact our area?
- Why is this even being talked about?
- Will they save any money doing this? Parents with young children will be an issue for them. Maybe no sports during the week
- Without other schools in the area going to a 4-day week, our Athletics doesn't benefit. If you truly want to help families with scheduling you would have Mondays off, not Friday. Most health professionals close early or are fully closed on Fridays.
- If you do choose to go 4 days, the buildings should be fully closed, not open for only a handful of students who need extra help; that seems like punishment, and they end up in school up to 45 hrs. a week.
- Worried about children with a less-than-ideal home life, more in the community than one would think.
- Would implementing this then remove the early release on Wednesdays? It is inconvenient for our family to have an early release in the middle of the week, given our current schedule.
- I would like to see the kids and staff have a longer spring break.
- You spend millions of dollars building and repairing the education facilities...to leave them empty on Fridays?

## Major Themes from Comments

**Potential Benefits of a Four-Day School Week:** Several comments highlight positive aspects, such as increased family time, opportunities for rest and relaxation, and more time for appointments and at-home tasks. Some parents and students feel that an extra day off could improve student well-being and enable teachers to prepare better and plan.

**Concerns About Extended School Days and Academic Impact:** Many commenters express worry that longer school days may lead to less sleep for students, especially younger children, and could negatively affect their ability to focus and participate in extracurricular activities. There is also concern about decreased instructional time and its potential to hinder academic achievement.

**Childcare and Family Logistics:** The challenge of finding suitable childcare for the extra day off is a recurring theme, especially for working parents who do not have Fridays off. This issue is compounded by limited daycare availability in the area, which increases stress for families. Some comments raise concerns that the four-day work week could disproportionately affect students on IEPs and hourly staff.

**Uncertainty and Desire for More Information:** There is a clear desire for more details about the reasons behind transitioning to a four-day school week. Some individuals are open to the idea but feel they need more information to decide whether it will be beneficial or detrimental.