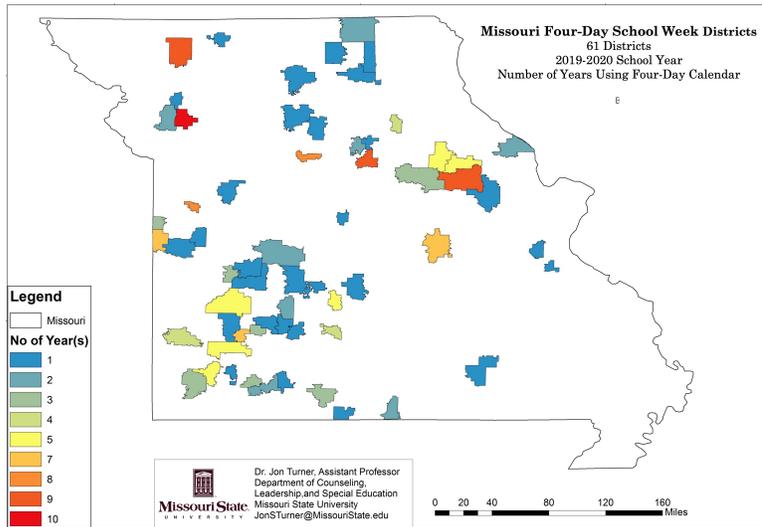


The Four-Day School Week

61 Missouri School Districts Currently Use A Four-Day School Week- Up From 33 in 2018-2019



Since first allowed in Missouri in 2008, only one Missouri school district (Lexington) returned to the traditional five day calendar after starting the four-day week. Currently in Missouri, 31,000 students and 2,500 teachers work in four-day a week school districts. Twenty-eight new school districts made the switch this school year (2019-2020). Of the current schools using the four-day week calendar, only seven of these districts have a K-12 enrollment of more than 1,000; 28 of the districts have a K-12 enrollment of less than 400. Warren County Schools (Warrenton), just west of St. Louis, is the largest school district using the four-day school week next year with 3,150 students.

Key Research Findings

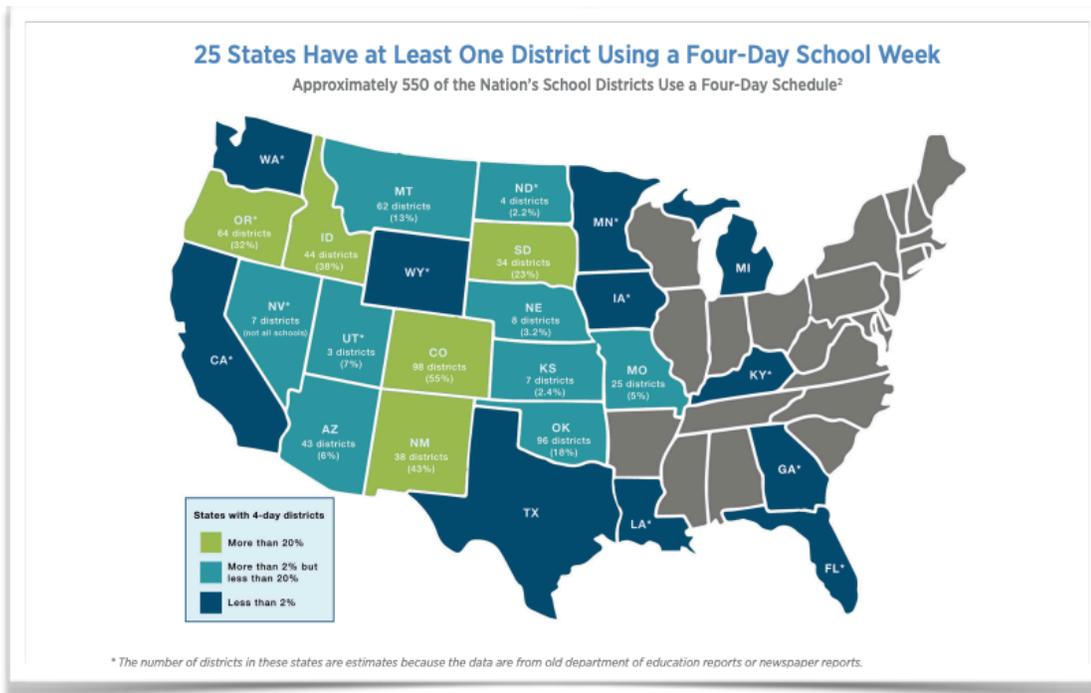
1
LITTLE LONG TERM
ACADEMIC IMPACT
FOUND

2
MAXIMUM FINANCIAL
SAVINGS LESS THAN
5%

3
STRONGLY
SUPPORTED BY
PARENTS AND STAFF

Top Reasons Given for the Switch in Missouri

1. Attract and retain high quality teachers
2. Additional time for professional development and collaboration
3. Increase student and teacher attendance
4. Financial savings and less "wear and tear" on school equipment like buses
5. Increased time for students and family
6. Less out of school time for students and coaches to attend extra-curricular events



Mexico has placed a freeze on adding any additional four-day districts until more research can be done. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recently awarded a \$1 million grant to the Rand Corporation to evaluate four-day school week policies in the United States that will investigate the long-term academic impact.

At least 1500 school districts nationwide use the four-day school week

There is nothing new about the four-day school week in the United States. Currently, all states west of the Mississippi have four-day school weeks. This year Kirby, Arkansas will be the first school district in the state to implement the four-day week. In the early 20th Century four-day school weeks were common in western states. During The Great Depression and the 1970's Arab Oil Embargo some schools implemented the four-day school week to save on heating and transportation costs. Within the last 20 years states like Utah, Hawaii, and Oklahoma have implemented four-day school calendars to deal with state budget issues. Currently over half of the schools districts in Colorado use the four-day school week along with significant percentages of New Mexico, Idaho, South Dakota and Oregon. Recently the state of New

Research from Missouri State University

- Hugely popular with parents. Although supportive overall, parents with students receiving special education services and parents with only elementary aged children supportive to a lesser extent than other groups.
- Hugely popular with staff including those that that lost money due to the switch.
- Business/Community leaders very split based on if they have children currently enrolled in school (supportive) as compared to those with no students in school (not supportive). Little economic impact found on business income after the switch to four-day week.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Missouri State University Four-Day School Week Resource Center at www.fourdayweek.us