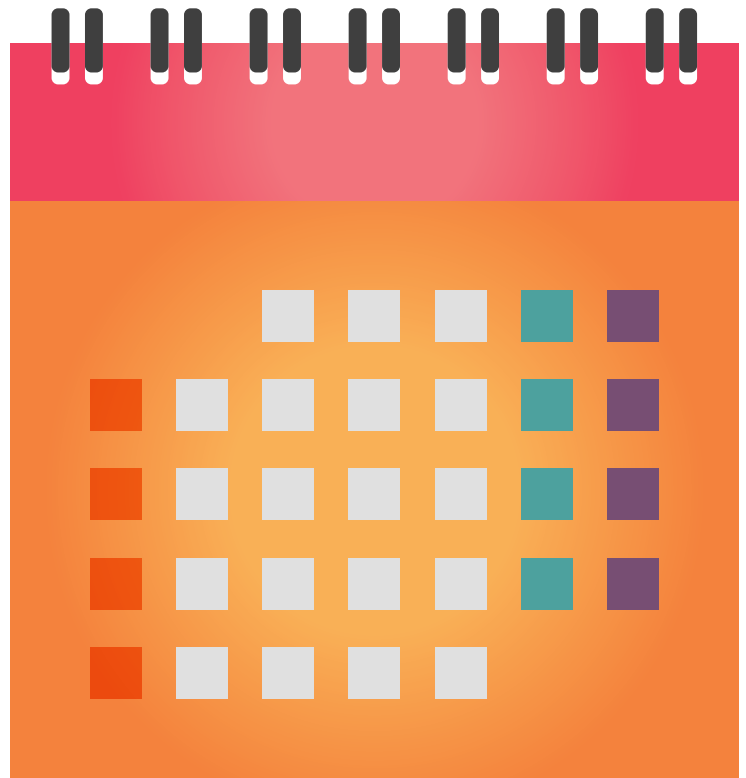


The **ONE** Difference **DAY** Can Make

Five Bowie County and area school districts will implement a four-day week for the 2022-2023 school year.

Fridays will be considered student holidays, and some Fridays will be used by staff for professional development and planning time.

The districts implementing the four-day week view the new schedule as a potential solution to many issues public education is facing. The districts used the input of the community, parents, and staff before approving the four-day week.



New Boston ISD
1,200 students



Pewitt CISD
860 students



DeKalb ISD
800 students

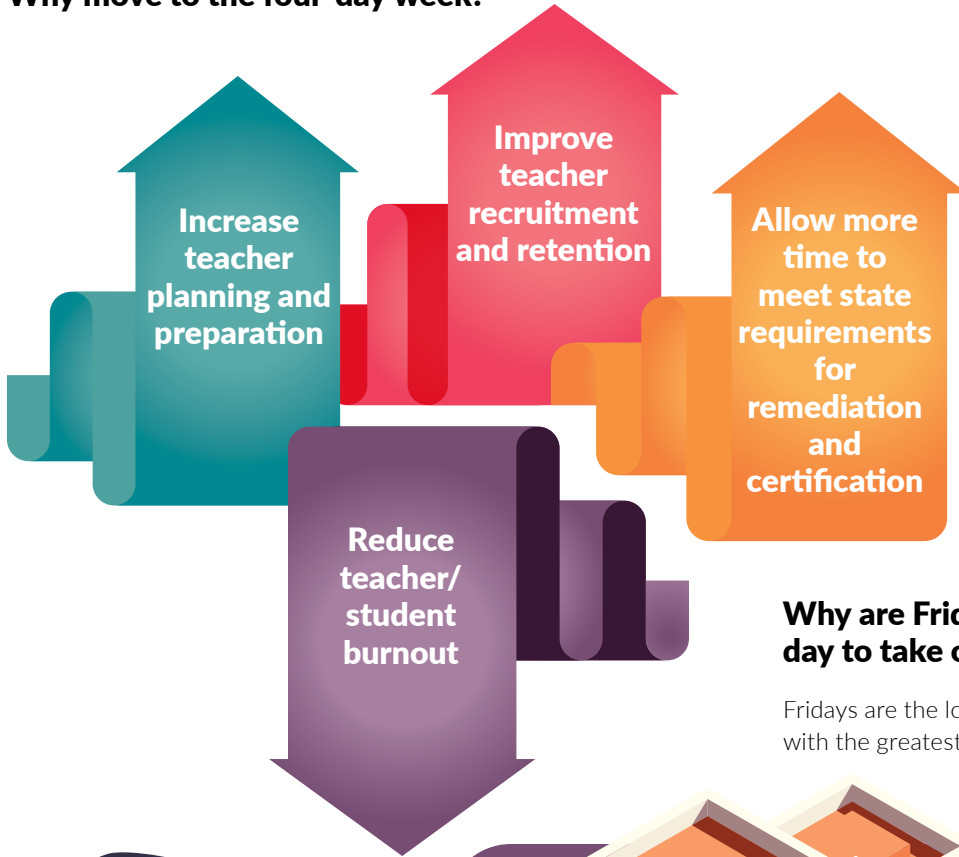


Hubbard ISD
415 students



Malta ISD
212 students

Why move to the four-day week?



Will students following the four-day week format receive less time in the classroom?

An average of 30 minutes per day will be added to Monday through Thursday instruction to ensure the required minutes in school. Texas requires 75,600 instructional minutes per year. DeKalb ISD will provide 77,500 (3.5 days over the minimum requirement) with a school day running Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Why are Fridays the chosen day to take off?

Fridays are the lowest days of attendance in schools with the greatest need for substitute teachers.

What will parents do for childcare on Fridays?

Districts implementing the four-day week will partner with community churches and childcare facilities to provide childcare at a low, affordable rate.



What are the financial benefits or costs?

According to DeKalb ISD, their research states a district will save 0%-5%, and New Boston's research stated .5%-5% savings. Districts voiced that they did not make the decision based on money.





Will districts provide food services for children who depend on the school for meals?

Through grant funding, DeKalb ISD will provide afternoon care (ACE), lunch, and transportation to students needing food and childcare. New Boston ISD will offer meals on Fridays for students who qualify for free and reduced meals and choose to participate. Malta ISD's parent survey did not show great concern for childcare or food service. Malta ISD will continue to partner with a local program that sends food home to children in need on the weekends.

“My hope is that the class periods will have enough extra time in them that the teachers and students alike will have more useful lecture and practice time for their subject matter. Anything new is scary and also exciting. I hope this is the best thing ever in the way of public school education.”

—Ashleigh Wilson, Pewitt CISD Parent

Will extracurricular activities be cut?

According to DeKalb ISD and New Boston ISD, extracurricular activities will still take place on Fridays and will not be affected.

What are people saying?

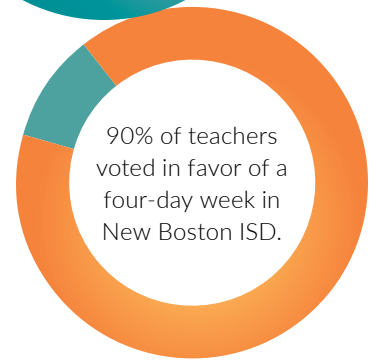
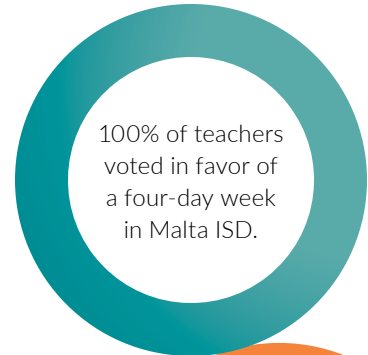
DeKalb ISD surveyed parents, teachers, and students before bringing the decision to the Board of Trustees, and here's what they found...

97% of teachers voted in favor of a four-day week.

76% of parents were either in favor of the four-day week or indifferent toward the change.

74% of students voted in favor of a four-day week, and 50% of students voiced they would seek a job, babysit, or volunteer on their Fridays off.

40/337 parents expressed concern for childcare.



"We were attending a meeting with Commissioner Morath at the Region 8 Service Center last year. We were discussing topics like creative scheduling to increase teacher prep time, along with programs intended to entice more people to become teachers. That conversation sparked numerous conversations with local superintendents, and we began to research and brainstorm different ideas. Ultimately, the surveys internally of staff and our parents helped us make the final decision."

—Brian Bobbitt, New Boston ISD Superintendent

"Texas four-day week districts we have talked to reported higher morale, attendance, and better prepared staff by moving to a new calendar. Additionally, they have reported the families love the extra time with their kids and older students are able to work on Fridays providing them with a real-world learning opportunity."

—Chris Galloway, DeKalb ISD Superintendent

"Teachers were given the opportunity through a survey to show their support for or against (the four-day week). In fact, that is where we started. If we didn't have buy-in from our teachers, we would not have pursued it any farther. I spoke with the Malta ISD School Board about the topic, and we decided to start with the staff to get their feedback. The support was overwhelmingly 100% in favor of the possibility of transitioning to a four-day instructional week."

—Stacy Starrett, Malta ISD Superintendent

"I'm excited to see how the four-day week will work out this year. I am one who always tries to find the positive over the negative when it comes to big changes. I wasn't sure in the beginning when thinking through the adjustments we would all have to make, but I believe the almost weekly break for the students and teachers will be beneficial for all. I guess we will wait and see exactly how it all plays out."

—Tera Barrett, New Boston Middle School Teacher

