

4-Day School Week: What Every Family Should Know

Kootenai School District #274 — One-page summary for the community

59 min

longer school day than we have now

~40

Fridays per year with no school

42%

of students qualify for free/reduced lunch

72%

of families have all parents working

0

licensed childcare providers in Harrison

The Schedule Change

	Now (25-26)	Proposed 4-Day
School hours	8:10 AM - 2:55 PM	7:56 AM - 3:40 PM
Day length	6h 45m	7h 44m (+59 min)
Student days	167	146 (-21 days)
PD days (no students)	6	20 (3x more)
Fridays off	~10	ALL (~40)

The handout says "only 28 minutes more" — but that compares the two proposals to each other, not to what we have now. The real change is 59 minutes longer, starting 14 minutes earlier.

What It Means for Bus Families

	Now	4-Day
Bus pickup	6:42-6:50 AM	~6:28-6:35 AM
Home by	3:45-4:10 PM	~4:30-5:00 PM
Door-to-door	~9-9.5 hours	~10-10.5 hours

These are real pickup times from families in the district. Elementary students would have a longer day than most adults' workday.

What Wasn't on the Handout

- **Childcare:** Zero licensed providers in Harrison. 3 in all of Benewah County, 25-30 miles away. At \$35-100/day (depending on arrangement), that's \$1,050-3,000/year per child.
- **Meals:** District doesn't qualify for the food program to serve meals on non-school days. No funded plan exists for Friday meals.
- **After-school program:** Director testified running a Friday program would mean canceling 2 existing after-school days. Budget already over.
- **Post Falls (Year 3 of 4-day):** Chronic absenteeism 18.8% vs state avg 14.6%. Savings only \$55K. Had to expand meals program to cover Fridays.
- **Research (RAND):** 4-day weeks caused ~11% drop in employment among mothers of kids 5-13.

The cost shift:

District might save \$17,000-69,000. Community childcare burden estimated at \$52,000-195,000/year (at \$35-100/day). The 4-day week doesn't eliminate costs — it transfers them to families.

Questions to Ask the Board

- What is the funded plan for Friday childcare?
- What is the plan for meals for food-insecure kids?
- Why is PD tripling from 6 to 20 days?
- What benchmarks would trigger going back to 5 days?
- Was the early-release Friday model considered?
- Why is the vote 5 days after we first saw the calendars?

Full details online: kjsd-4dsw.netlify.app | Sources: KSD handouts (April 17, 2026), April 17 public meeting testimony, U.S. Census ACS, Idaho Report Card, RAND Corporation, ROCI Idaho | Prepared by a KSD parent and former board member. Not affiliated with the district.