

Lakeland Joint School District #272

Rusty Taylor, Superintendent of Schools

15506 N Washington St., Rathdrum, Idaho 83858

208/687-0431

rusty.taylor@lakeland272.org ~ web.sd272.org



One District. One Mission. Every Student. Every Day.

Board Action: Action

Subject: Pilot Four-day School Week, 2026-2027

Date of Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 18th, 2026

Prepared By: Rusty Taylor, Superintendent

Our “Whys” for the Four-day Week:

- Large Parent Interest in the Four-day School Week
- Neighboring districts have had academic successes and growth
- Increased instructional time for students at both the elementary and secondary levels compared to this year’s instructional minutes– **added on 3.11.2026**
- Time:
 - Family Time
 - Reset for Students and Staff
 - Family Appointments
 - Professional Development for Classified and Certified Staff
 - Data Review and Planning for Instructional Staff
- The Four-Day Week – Efficient Operations
 - Consolidates operational days to improve overall efficiency
 - Maintains all required instructional minutes
 - Protects programs and staff that directly support student learning
- With the possibility of future financial constraints and in light of our most recent possible budget reductions at the state level, transitioning to a four-day school week positions the district to operate more efficiently with the resources we currently have.
- Increase Instructional time for elementary and middle school students.
- Better Student Attendance– in some districts’ cases
- The students, staff, and community of the Lakeland Joint School District are capable of achieving great things when given the opportunity—and our history has proven that– **added on 3.11.2026**

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATION:

Motion: I move that the Board approve a **one-year pilot Four-Day School Week for the 2026–2027 school year**, with a review at the end of the year that includes feedback from parents, students (high school), and staff, along with academic metrics such as student attendance, IRI and ISAT scores, and financial data to determine future implementation.

Note: The committee has thoroughly reviewed the four-day school week and made adjustments to the original calendar and bell schedule based on student and parent feedback. Based on their work and the “whys” previously presented, I believe a one-year pilot four-day week is the best option for the Lakeland School District.

Additional Items:

Calendar and Bell Schedule Recommendations:

- [2026-2027 Four- Day School Week Proposed Calendar](#)
- [2026-2027 Four-Day School Proposed Bell Schedule](#)

Survey Data– Summative:

Parents: 61% (1,007- yes) in favor and 39%(653- no) opposed

- [Summary of Comments](#)

Students: 60%(335- no) opposed and 40% in favor(221 –yes)

- [Summary of Comments](#)

Staff: 65%(341- yes) and 28% (144-no) opposed

- [Summary of Comments](#)

Direct Comments from the Survey:

- [Parent Feedback](#)
- [Student Feedback](#)
- [Staff Feedback](#)

Statistical Analysis:

- Survey participation from each stakeholder group was sufficient to achieve 95% confidence in the results.
- The margin of error ranged from $\pm 2\%$ to $\pm 5\%$, depending on the group.
- This **provides a statistically reliable estimate of the true level of support within each group.**
- [Statistical Analysis of each Group](#)

Summary:

The Beginning:

This issue, at least for this school year, began on October 15 when I presented a discussion item to the Board regarding the Four-Day School Week. The topic had previously been discussed and tabled by the Board last year.

During the October 15 meeting, the Board made it clear that if the matter were to be reconsidered, it would be the responsibility of the administration to conduct the necessary research and bring forward a formal recommendation. We have completed that work and are now bringing the matter back for the Board’s consideration.

The Committee Work:

A committee was formed to thoroughly study the potential transition to a Four-Day

School Week. The members of the committee were: Rusty Taylor, Brook Cunningham, Rebekah Davis, Jessica Granthem, Shannon LaFountaine, Shannon Rider, Jake Massey, Kelsie Badget, Dustin Frank, Jimmy Hoffman, Josh Hegstad, and Lisa Hoffman.

In addition, a subcommittee was created specifically to focus on calendar and bell schedule research. Members of that subcommittee included Rusty Taylor, Brook Cunningham, Dustin Frank, and Jessica Granthem. This subcommittee met on two separate occasions.

The main committee began meeting on December 18 and has met six times since then, with each session lasting approximately 1½ to 2 hours.

During these meetings, the committee:

- Established a timeline and identified action steps
- Gathered and reviewed committee member feedback
- Reviewed multiple research studies, including those both in favor of and opposed to a four-day school week
- Reviewed information from Post Falls
- Reviewed last year's Four-Day Week parent information
- Examined the staff groups most likely to be impacted, including classified employees such as bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and food service staff
- Developed a draft four-day school calendar and bell schedule
- Created surveys for parents, staff, and high school students
- Reviewed survey data from parents, staff, and high school students
- Made adjustments to the calendar and bell schedule based on survey feedback
- Developed a presentation for the Board's discussion