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DREXEL R-IV SCHOOL

Home of the Bobcats

4 Day School Week

The Drexel School District has been looking at different ways to increase professional development time for our teachers (without taking them from the classroom) and to cut expenses. One such avenue is to look at a four day school week.

In 2009 the state passed legislation that would allow school districts to go a four day week to help budget expenses. While the state passed a four day week option, there are still requirements that have to be met. The requirement of the amount of time that students are at school remains the same, 1044 hours. The requirement of the number of days is reduced from 174 to 142. Drexel currently has 168 student days and 1064 hours of student attendance. There is also a stipulation that if academic achievement decreases in two subject areas in two consecutive years, then the district must return to a five day week calendar.

Currently there are over a dozen school districts in the state that follow a 4 day school week, and more have adopted one for next year. Here are some things that they have discovered: student achievement is generally not affected either positively or negatively; student and teacher attendance improves; student disciplinary referrals decrease, student and teachers benefit from less interrupted class time as a result of longer class periods and fewer transitions at all grade levels, all of the increases the efficiency of instruction; significant savings on items such as utilities and fuel bills, substitute teacher pay, bus transportation, and building repairs.

Naturally there are a lot of things that have to be considered and therefore I am asking for your input and feedback. I would appreciate it if you would take some time and think about this concept, review the information regarding the four day week then complete the survey that will be provided.

Respectfully,

Terry Mayfield

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