



Anamosa Community School District
Rooted In Excellence, Ready for the Future

Community Meeting dates are:

Monday, February 3rd, 5:30 pm, HS Fine Arts Auditorium

Tuesday, February 4th, 5:30 pm, HS Fine Arts Auditorium

Thursday, February 6th, 6:30 pm, HS Fine Arts Auditorium

4-Day School Week FAQ's

Why consider a change to the 4-day school week?

- Retention/Recruitment of quality staff
- Social/Emotional benefits for students and staff
- Potential boost in attendance/engagement
- Increased family time
- Potential enrollment increase

How does this benefit your family?

- Time for appointments
- Time for longer family weekends
- Potential time with extended family
- Weekend extracurricular activities

How does this benefit the school?

- Recruit and retain high-quality staff
- Social/Emotional health of students and staff
- Class length stays at a length for in-depth learning
- Students have a whole day (Friday) to do any needed schoolwork
- Teachers have extended quality Professional Development time

School Basics

Student Hours: M - Th: 8:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. 7 period day, 55/56 min classes

This 4-day-a-week schedule would start next school year, 2025-2026.

What are the state rules on school time requirements?

The state requires 1,080 hours of instruction. If ACSD goes for 148 school days at 445 minutes a day, instructional time would be about 1098 hours. The state of Iowa requires us to attend 1080 hours.

What about snow days?

Snow days will continue to be made up and the calendar committee will decide to add snow days to the end of the school year or on specified Fridays.

What about early out for Professional Development?

There will be no early outs built into the calendar. Every school day will be a full-length day. Professional Development will occur the 1st half of the day on Friday PD days throughout the school year. This will allow teachers to have collaborative team meetings, analyze work, professional learning, and individual preparation for the coming week.

Can teachers still hit all the standards needed for their content area?

Our teachers will adjust their teaching to meet all of the standards they have previously covered. If ACSD is having the same instructional hours, then teachers only need to adjust their pacing and content delivery to ensure everything is covered.

Why Friday?

Most of the staff and student absences are traditionally on Fridays. Limiting student and staff absences means more face-to-face instructional time between teacher and student during the week. Most mini-vacations and family trips begin with a Friday afternoon departure time. Also, Friday works as a good social/emotional day for families and staff. Lastly, we share with the Olin district and they started a 4-day school week this year with Fridays off.

Why Now?

We are facing the most significant teacher shortage in history. Teachers are leaving the profession in droves. Burnout is at an all-time high, and morale is at an all-time low. Like most rural communities, Anamosa struggles to find applicants for our open positions. We have had a special education teacher vacancy all year. We had no applicants for our HS English, Spanish, and Business positions all 1st semester and had to restructure until we hired those positions 2nd semester.

Competing for new staff members has been difficult being so close to larger districts. This will make Anamosa stand out, attract more applicants for any openings, and help retain our current staff. With fewer teachers entering the workforce, Anamosa has to differentiate itself from area schools. Quality teachers and adults can make all the difference in a student's educational experience.

More than ever, the social/emotional state of students and staff has changed significantly since 2020. Students and staff value extended time for themselves to do their work and not feel like school is weighing them down. We have to be responsive to help students and staff in this area.

4-Day Week Considerations		
<u>Positives/Advantages</u>	<u>Potential Drawbacks</u>	<u>Thoughts to Consider</u>
Social/Emotional Health of Students and Staff	Longer School Days by 30 minutes	Food Security: BackPack program, Food Pantry
Staff and Students have a day to schedule appointments without missing school	Potential missed time for sporting events, balanced out by missing nothing on Friday	Work Schedules of the future are less 5 day/8 hours
Hiring Advantages: Retention/Recruitment Students need quality teachers/adults in their classrooms	First years would be an adjustment for teachers, students, and parents on morning prep	Absenteeism is higher on Fridays for staff and students, less missed school
Potential student and staff attendance increases	Bus schedules would extend 30 mins later	Students could work on their off Fridays
Efficiency for elementary schedule with specials, lunch, recess		Possible: Fewer student referrals, incidents
Length of the school year does not change		Increase attendance

Other resources -

[Data](#) Information

[Experienced](#) Kindergarten Teachers - Harvard Kennedy School

[Good Morning America](#) 4-day School Week article

Website: Dr. [Jon Turner](#)

Articles:

[Brookings](#)

[EducationWeek](#)

The [Hechinger](#) Report

[The News](#) Article, The [SE Union](#) Article

Personal quotes from parents, teachers, and others in a 4-day school:

“Olin is Monday - Thursday. I think it’s perfect. Keeps kids excited about school bc they get a sufficient weekend. Ironically, if I was still working it would have matched my work schedule as well. I know a lot of business are going to 4 day weeks.”

“My kids have it (4 day school week). At first I hated it. Now, not so bad. If they have missing work they can make it up on Fridays.”

“C... has always loved school but he seems ready for the break on Fridays but ready to go back come Monday. Now that I work in a school I can definitely understand the benefits more!”

“Fridays she was just sluggish. Monday - Thursday happy go lucky.”

“I feel like we don’t have as many behaviors as far as school day goes.”

“We did a 4 day week when we were starting school after the pandemic. Although I lost rehearsal time, I had more time to prepare for rehearsals, so my rehearsals were more efficient and productive. I liked it.”

Schools Implementing a 4-Day Calendar

School District	Day Off	Year Implemented
Cardinal	Mondays	2022-2023
Central Decatur	Mondays	2024-2025
East Union	Mondays	2024-2025
Highland	Fridays	2024-2025
Keota	Fridays	2024-2025
Martensdale St. Mary	Mondays	2024-2025
Melcher Dallas	Mondays	2024-2025
Moravia	Fridays	2023-2024
Mormon Trail	Fridays	2023-2024
Moulton Udell	Fridays	2022-2023
Murray City	Mondays	2023-2024
North Iowa	Mondays	2024-2025
Olin	Fridays	2024-2025
Saydel	Fridays	2024-2025
Seymour	Fridays	2024-2025
Sidney	Mondays	2024-2025
Twin Cedars	Mondays	2024-2025
Waco	Fridays	2013-2014
Winfield Mt. Union	Mondays	2024-2025