

Pros: How this Could Bolster Academic Achievement

- With a longer weekend, [students can recharge more](#) and be [more attentive](#) in class—leading to instruction hours being more productive.
- Chronic absenteeism [could decrease](#); as kids would have more built-in days to go on hunting trips, weekend getaways, or athletic events.
 - Additionally in rural districts, less time would have to be taken off to [help on the family farm](#).
- Fewer kids would be late to class for doctor's appointments, driver's tests, and other necessary errands as families [could schedule](#) it on the weekday that school is off.
- Teachers [would have more opportunities](#) to improve their lesson plans and collaborate with their colleagues.
 - While there is ample time to discuss these things during school breaks, having built-in professional development days could lead to improvement for some teachers—generating higher academic achievement.
- Teacher retention could increase. With a longer weekend and more days to prepare for class, teachers may have [greater job satisfaction](#).
 - With greater job satisfaction, teachers could be more motivated and help boost students' scores.
- Potentially cutting costs from transportation, energy, or food services on the fifth day [could allow](#) districts to divert more funds to instructional costs.
- Longer class times with a 4dsw means that teachers can more easily [use different teaching methods](#) like small-group discussions as opposed to mainly lectures—potentially leading to more active participation and academic growth.
- Fewer substitute teachers are needed, as [teachers can schedule](#) appointments or recover from sickness on off days.

Cons: How this Could Decrease Academic Achievement

- One fewer day per week means [less structure](#) and less time a student is thinking about school.
 - A longer weekend means less repetitions per week of material, which may make it harder for it to “stick.”
 - 50% of schools that use a 4dsw report [being completely closed on the fifth day](#), while 30% offer some sort of remedial or enrichment activity on that day.
 - We all saw what happened to [students' scores](#) when they were not routinely in-person at school.
- It is harder to stay focused over the course of a longer day.
 - Many claim that [attention spans have shortened](#) in society. If a 4dsw involves longer school days, there may be more hours where students are not paying attention.
- Many times, 4dsw have about [3-4 less hours in school per week](#)—harming academic achievement.
- A day is relatively more important in a 4dsw schedule than a 5dsw schedule.
 - This could be a [particular problem](#) for Missouri which has [chronic absenteeism](#).
- Test schedules become more tightly packed together with one fewer day, along with [more homework](#) and longer days of school.
 - This can serve to increase stress on students.
- Teacher retention [could decrease](#). One fewer day of school, that is one fewer day to earn additional income from after- and before-school programs.
- Studies show a 4dsw could be linked to increased [juvenile crime](#), as older students can have an unsupervised day off, leading to students focusing less on school or not being in school at all.
- Students with [a tough home life](#) may face struggles being home an extra day, increasing mental health issues.
 - For students with little at-home support, less time in school is more harmful to them than others. .