



JOY HOFMEISTER

STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mary Fallin
FROM: Superintendent Joy Hofmeister
DATE: March 1, 2017
SUBJECT: Analysis of Expenditures of Districts on a Four-Day School Week

I am writing today in response to your January request for an analysis of expenditures for Oklahoma school districts that have adopted four-day school weeks. A study across several school years results in the most thorough analysis. Therefore, I am providing analysis of expenditures from fiscal year 2008-2009 through fiscal year 2015-2016 for the following districts: Fort Towson, Midway, Wilson (Okmulgee County), Swink, Lone Wolf, Battiest, Valliant, Avant, Barnsdall, Prue, Asher, Moyers, Rattan, Straight, Liberty (Tulsa County) and Sharon-Mutual. These districts switched to a four-day week beginning in fiscal year 2011-2012.

With this analysis, we sought to determine whether district average expenditures decreased after the move to a four-day week. To do so, we used expenditure data from three years prior to the change in the weekly schedule and from the time of the change to the present. We included four types of expenditures where savings might be predicted in a move to a reduced school week: utilities, food, transportation and support staff.

Of the 16 districts, we discovered that nine spent more money, on average, after the switch to a four-day week. Eight of these nine districts also saw an increase in Weighted Average Daily Membership (WADM). It is possible that the increase in expenditures for those eight districts may have been attributed to the increase in student numbers.

The remaining seven districts spent less money, on average, after switching to the four-day school week. Four of the seven saw a decrease in WADM, which may be attributed to the decrease in student number. Three districts spent less money while their WADM increased. Further study is needed to determine the cause of these savings. This report does not clearly indicate that the savings were necessarily caused by the switch to a four-day week.

When we combined expenditures of all 16 districts, we found that, on average, school districts spent \$4,523 more on utilities, \$2,714 less on food, \$1,971 less on transportation, and \$8,542 more on support staff after switching to a four-day week than they spent before the change in school schedule.

In conclusion, after analyzing each district's expenditures, we can find no conclusive evidence to support the theory that four-day school weeks save districts money.

Attached documentation:

- Graphs depicting patterns in each district's expenditures
- Spreadsheet documenting each district's expenditures since 2008