

Dear Lexington R-V Patrons,

As we look to prepare a budget and set up the educational program in Lexington for 2012-2013 we are faced with the continual declining economy that impacts each of our lives. This economic situation has not improved. Therefore we are preparing for another loss in funding of approximately \$650,000. We are looking into several different ways to decrease expenditures in the upcoming years.

One of the possible cost-saving alternatives is to consider the 4-day school week. The district would stand to save over 25% of the projected loss in funding if we were to implement a 4-day week. This would come in the areas of transportation, custodial and maintenance costs, substitute salaries, energy usage and the reduction of hours for non-certified staff. We are extensively researching the numerous districts that have already made the transition to the 4-day school week to determine any effect it might have on our students.

Your input is very valuable as we investigate this possibility. Please read the following information carefully and complete the attached survey. I encourage you to research “4 Day School Week” to gain insight into the districts in 21 states already implementing this model. You can also visit <http://lathrop.schooldesk.net/> to view the results at a nearby district.

Brad MacLaughlin

Superintendent of Schools

4 Day School Week Information

- 1.)** Monday would no longer be a school day.

- 2.)** Time attending school would change minimally. Instead of going from 8:00 to 3:00 for 174 days we would attend from 8:00 to 3:45 (or 7:45 to 3:30) for 150 days.

- 3.)** In the past, up to 26 weeks of the 38 week school year have interrupted by holidays, breaks, early releases. In the 4 day model only 2 school weeks would be interrupted (Thanksgiving break, the return week from Winter Break and Spring Break). The remaining 36 weeks would consistently be Tuesday through Friday.

- 4.)** There would only be one early release day (last day of school) and no late start days during the school year. All teacher training, parent/teacher conferences, weather make-up days would occur on Mondays.

- 5.)** No activities/athletic practices would be allowed to begin on Monday before 3:45pm.

- 6.)** Student and teacher attendance in other 4 day week districts has increased significantly due to students and parents using Monday to take care of medical, dental and other needed appointments.

Please complete and return to Lexington News office, Trails Regional Library, Margaret Gray Center, or to any of the Lexington R-V offices by Wed. Nov. 16th.

Lexington R-V 4 Day Week PATRON Survey

1.) Name (optional)_____

2.) How would you rank your feelings about the 4 day school week? (Please circle one)

1 – Very supportive

2 – Supportive

3 – Neutral

4 – Against it

3.) Due to the large amount of funding the district will lose in 2012-2013 there will need to be multiple cost-saving alternatives implemented. Please rank the list below in the order you believe the district should act. Rank your choices 1 through 5 (the first alternative you would choose with a 1 and the last alternative with a 5). (This is NOT a complete list of all alternatives. We simply want your input on these five.)

_____ Reduce teaching staff in each building. This would increase class sizes.

_____ 4 day school week

_____ Increase tax levy to replace loss of funding with new revenue

_____ Expand transportation radius to 3.5 miles (no students within 3.5 miles of school would be allowed to ride a school bus)

_____ Eliminate middle school or high school activities/athletic programs

4.) What, if anything, excites you the most about the possibility of a 4-day school week?

5.) What, if anything, worries you the most about the possibility of a 4-day school week?

6.) What additional information would you like to have about a 4-day school week?
