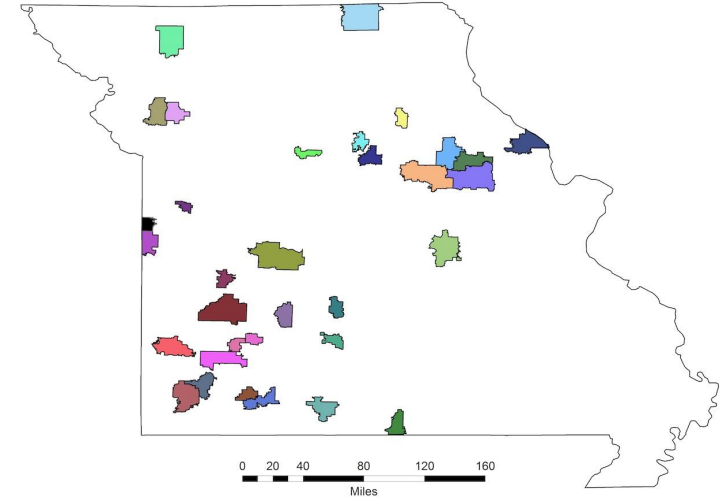


Missouri Schools Explore A New School Calendar



Jon Scott Turner, Missouri State University
Shannon Snow, Stockton Schools
Dustin Storm, Miller Schools



Missouri State
UNIVERSITY

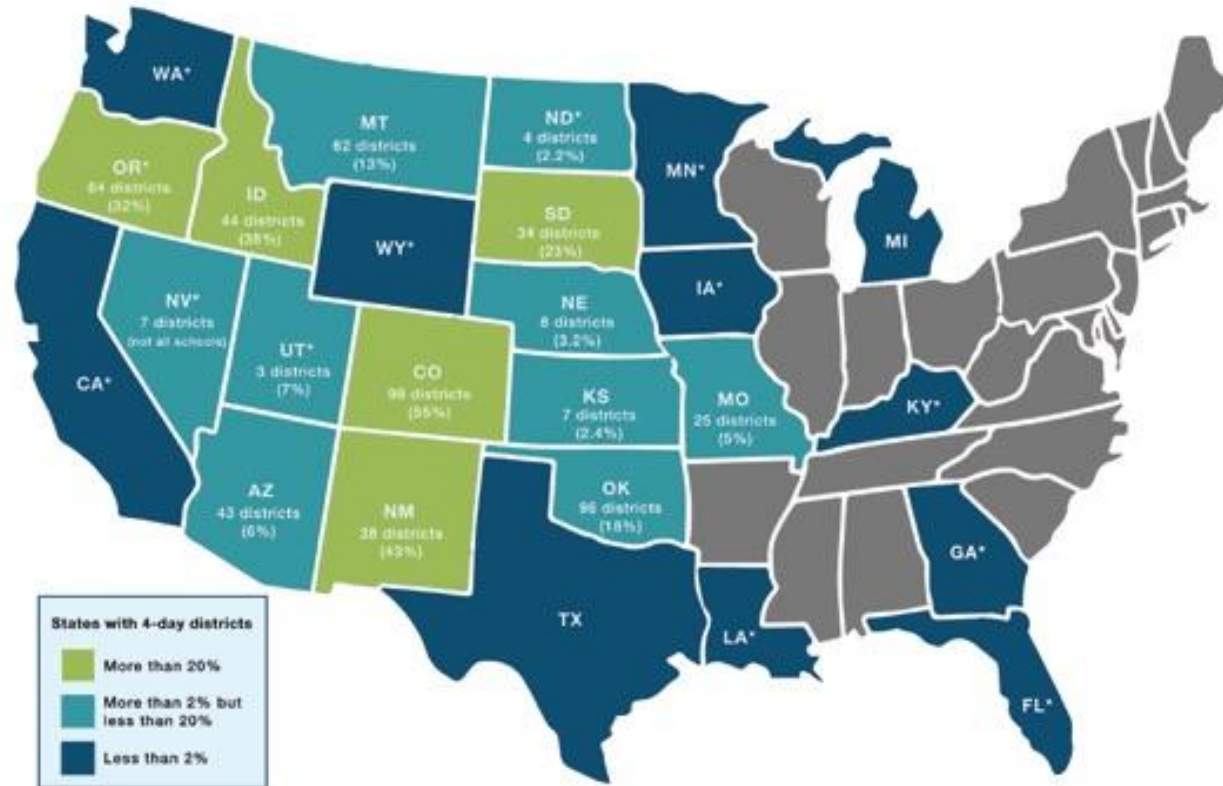


Historic Context of the Four-Day School Week

- Four-day school week was fairly common historically
- During the 20th Century as education standards became more rigorous the four-day school week became relatively rare
- During The Great Depression many schools used the four-day school week for a short period of time
- During the 1970's Arab Oil Embargo—again short-term resurgence
- Over last 15 years Hawaii and Utah have both implemented large scale implementation due to state budget issues
- Last year 96 Oklahoma schools started four-day calendars
- Historically focused in the rural western states

25 States Have at Least One District Using a Four-Day School Week

Approximately 550 of the Nation's School Districts Use a Four-Day Schedule²



* The number of districts in these states are estimates because the data are from old department of education reports or newspaper reports.

Notes:

a. We only included states that have districts currently using four-day schedules. Some states had districts using the four-day schedule in the past but no longer do (e.g., Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey).

b. All data are from the 2018 school year except for Arizona (2015), California (2011), Missouri (2017), Montana (2017), Nevada (2012), Oklahoma (2017), Oregon (2013), Texas (2016), and Utah (2013).

Source: Heyward, Georgia. *What Do We Actually Know about the Four-Day School Week?* Seattle: Center on Reinventing Public Education, 2018.

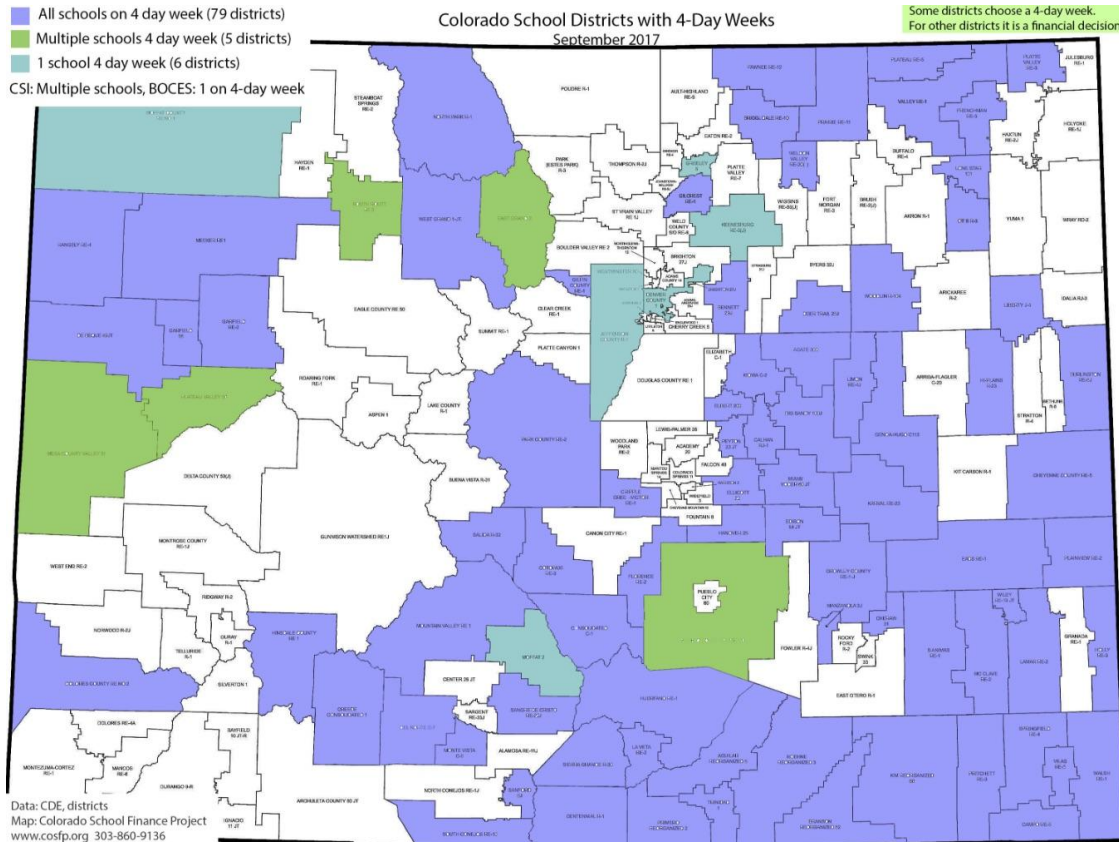
Four-Day School Week- No Clear Impact on Academic Performance

- Mixed results on academic performance impact
- Some research indicates some minor impact one way or the other
- Some research indicates impact on academic achievement may be short term—and long-term impact seems to be neutral
- Other variables like teacher quality probably have a larger impact on academic performance
 - Extended professional development and collaboration time
 - Recruitment and retention of high quality teachers
 - Higher teacher and student attendance percentages

Why look at Missouri's use of four-day school week?

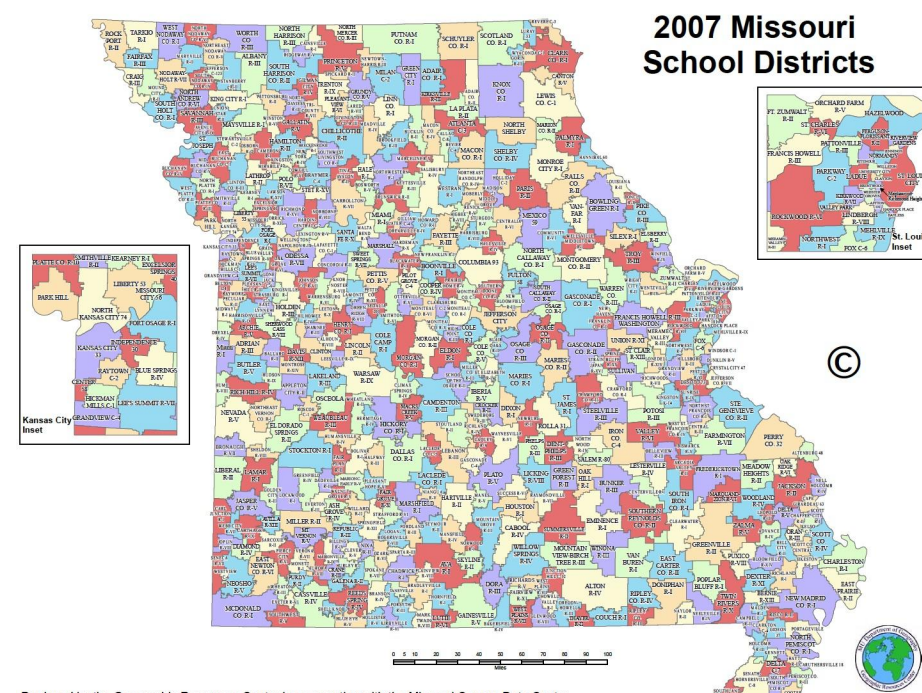
Colorado

263 public school districts
over 104,185 square miles



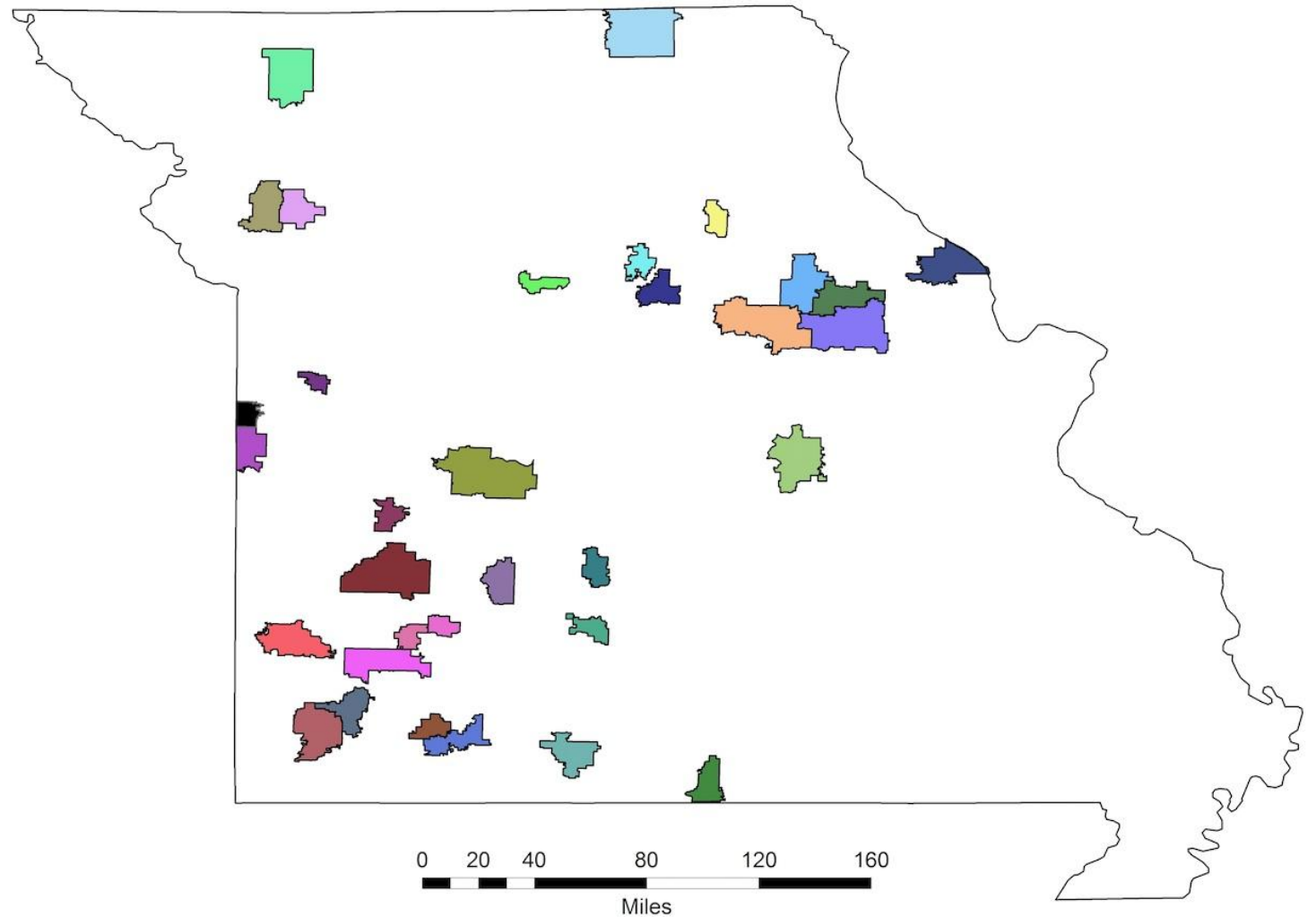
Missouri

518 public school districts
over 69,714 square miles



Missouri Four-Day Schools Districts 2018-2019

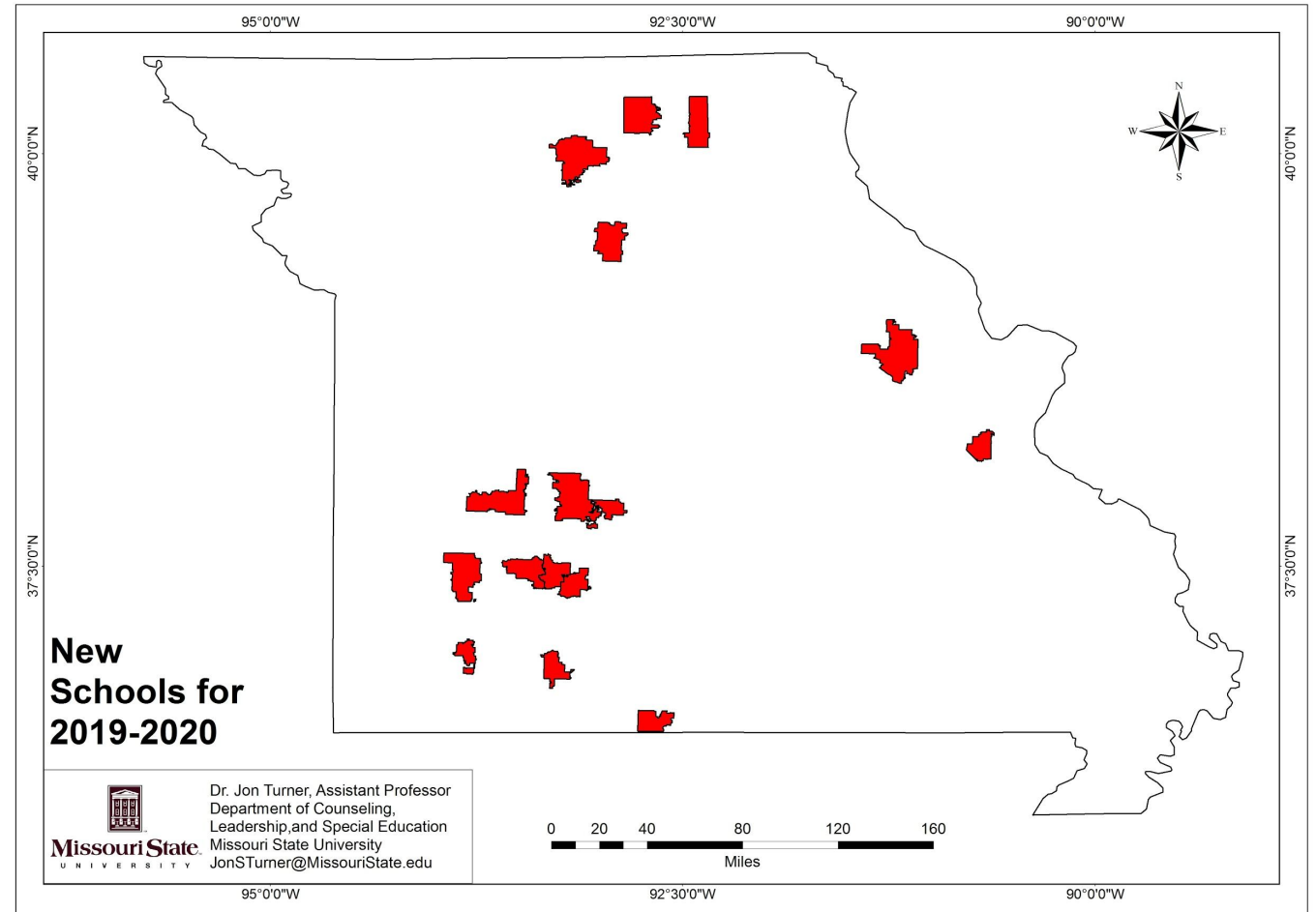
- 8 new schools this year
- 33 School Districts
- Only 4 have more than 1,000 students
- 3 have less than 100 students
- First became an option in 2009



New Four-Day Districts for 2019-2020

Minimum of 19 new Missouri School Districts

- 52 districts have already adopted a four-day week for next year
- Next year a minimum of **28,424 students** in Missouri four-day week districts
- Next year a minimum of **3,179 certified educators** in Missouri four-day week districts



Study #1: Faculty and Staff Findings

- Overwhelming support from both certified and classified staff (even staff that report earning less money)
- No significant difference between faculty and staff with students enrolled in school

Suggestions from Faculty/Staff Reasons

- Increased planning and grading time---
 - Does require curricular change---focus on the “essential”
 - Professional Development must be planned for the change
 - Must still provide independent time for teachers on no student days
- Impact on community
 - Prepare community for the change (negative people tend to be the most vocal)
 - “We took for granted that our community would support this and then tried to play damage control”
- Need for extensive prior research

Concerns of Faculty and Staff

- Retention of learning over long weekends
- Are students getting in trouble during time out of school
- Are kids getting enough to eat
- Faculty=has it had a negative impact on hourly school staff?
- Has the switch had a negative impact on the public perception of the quality of the school district?

Study # 2: Community/Business Leaders Perceptions

- Response from 71 community business leaders in the three school districts
- Focus on economic impact of the switch on their business and the community, perception of the quality of the school district, and overall support of the model
- Overall, perception of community/business leaders was polarizing and evenly split between supportive and not supportive (few were neutral)
- Key driver was that community/business leaders with students in school were supportive while those without children in school were not supportive of the four-day week
- Would you like to return to a 5 day week? 44% Yes---43% No---13% Neutral

Study #3: Parental Perception of Four-Day School Week

- 584 families from three school districts responded
 - 26% had only elementary aged children
 - 30% had only middle school or high school aged children
 - 44% had children from in both elementary and upper grades
 - 46% had children receiving free or reduced priced lunches
 - 14% had children receiving special education services
- Families were asked about:
 - The impact of the four-day week on their school, family, and their student
 - Concerns that have developed as a result of the four-day school week
 - Their overall support of the four-day school week

Our results did not support these commonly cited concerns of parents

- Few parents expressed concern for their child's safety during the extra day out of school
- Few parents expressed concern about the ability to find child care during the extra day out of school
- Few parents expressed concern about the loss of free or reduced lunches (even families who received this benefit)
- Single parent households did not show a significant difference in opinion of the four-day school week

Overall Parental Perceptions

- 68.9% of families supported using the four-day school week in the future
- 80.5% of families felt their children were as successful in school with the four-day week as they had been the previous year on a traditional calendar
- 73.1% of families felt that the four-day school week had had a “positive impact” on their family
- 32.7 % of families felt the four-day school week had “improved public opinion of the quality” of the school district---22.5% disagreed---44.9% neutral/no impact

Where parental perceptions significantly differ

- Parents with only elementary aged children are less supportive of the four-day school week than others
- Parents with only elementary aged children have more concern about finding daycare as compared with others (25.6%)
- Parent with students receiving special education services were less supportive than other parents. 33% wanted to return to the five-day week as compared to 12% of other families
- 29.4% of parents with special education students felt the four-day week had not had a positive impact on their family, only 10.1% of other families had this negative impression
- Families receiving free and reduced lunches were less likely to feel their child had been as successful in school with a four-day week

Overall Parental Opinion

- 54.8% of "elementary only" parents wanted to continue with the four-day school week
- 67.8% of parents with only middle school or high school students wanted to continue
- 78.65% of parents with both elementary and upper grades students wanted to continue with the four-day school week

Conclusions

- Staff love it-concerns about prior research and planning, communication with the community, and organized professional development. It is strongly possible that the four-day week may attract and retain school employees.
- Community/business leaders can be highly polarized with those with children in school most likely to support a four-day week. However, there is no evidence that the four-day week has a negative impact on business profitability.
- Families with special education students and with only elementary aged students are less supportive than others, but, overall parents are highly supportive with no groups opposed.



Miller R-II School District



Enrollment – 562

Free and Reduced Lunch Rate – 63.7%



**Current Expenditure Per ADA –
The Miller R-II School District
spent \$2,500
less per student than the
state average in the
2017-2018 school year.**



**Miller R-II School District
covers 196.8041 square miles.
The Miller R-II School District
covers more square miles than
414 school districts in Missouri.**



**Reasons the Miller R-II
School District went to a
four day school week:
Recruitment of Teachers
Retaining Teachers**



**Since going to the four day
school week,
the Miller R-II School
District's
retaining of teachers
has improved.**



**Since going to the four day
school week,
the Miller R-II School District
has seen a substantial
increase in teacher
applicants.**



Since going to the four day school week, teacher morale has improved.



**Since going to the four day
school week,
Professional Development
opportunities have
increased.**



**Since going to the
four day school week,
enrollment has
increased.**



Since going to the four day school week, the District has saved an average of \$50,000 per year on fuel, propane, water, and electricity.



Since going to the four day school week, the APR has seen an increase.



Annual Performance Report

- three year average before four day school week - 88.7%
- three year average the last three years from four day school week – 91.93%
- Increase of 3.23%



**The following are a few
operational items the
Miller R-II School District
does that might be different than
other four
day school weeks:**



**District Office is
open Monday – Friday,
8:00 – 4:00**



**Custodian, Maintenance,
Technology, Superintendent,
and Central Office staff work
Monday – Friday**

Questions?

Missouri State University
Four-Day Week Resources

www.fourdayweek.us



**Missouri
State**TM

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