



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 66** SLS 24RS 238
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 6, 2024	8:33 AM	Author: MIZELL
Dept./Agy.: EDUCATION		
Subject: Public school educational time requirements		Analyst: Julie Silva

SCHOOLS OR INCREASE LF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Provides for a mandatory five-day school week for public schools. (gov sig)

Proposed legislation requires that the minimum school week consist of five consecutive days, except for acknowledged legal holidays. Effective upon governor's signature.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Local Funds	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Local schools and school districts currently operating under a four-day school week may experience impacts to local fund expenditures as a result of proposed legislation. As outlined on page 2 of this fiscal note, state and federal fund expenditures may be impacted, directly related to the provision of school meals. Such impacts will vary by school and by district, but are not likely to be significant. Proposed legislation does not impact current law provisions concerning the authority of local school superintendents, with Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approval, to dismiss any or all schools in his or her system due to emergency situations. It also does not apply to any city, parish, or other public school that cannot meet those requirements due to the temporary sharing of facilities with another school due to damages caused by a natural disaster or emergency that was declared by the governor, certified by the state superintendent of education, and approved by BESE.

There are 70 public school districts in Louisiana, and of those, 10 have approved four-day instructional weeks for schools under their jurisdiction. These districts are: Acadia (30 sites), Cameron (5 sites), Evangeline (14 sites), Grant (9 sites), LaSalle (9 sites), Avoyelles (11 sites), Caldwell (8 sites), Beauregard* (12 sites), and Franklin (7 sites) parishes and Bogalusa City Schools (5 sites). Most four-day-a-week schools operate Monday through Thursday, with a few opting for Tuesday through Friday. School days and years are lengthened to deliver the same amount of instructional time over fewer days, as required by state law. Some schools may offer optional enrichment activities, tutoring or time for teacher development during the fifth day. At the time of implementation, these school districts referenced factors contributing to the change such as increasing certified teacher applicants, improving academic performance, and reducing operational costs. No data is available regarding the actual impacts schools have experienced since implementation. Research provided by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) shows that the maximum possible cost savings nationally for districts on a four-day week is 5.43%, but average savings range from 0.4% to 2.5%.

*Beauregard plans to implement a schedule for the 2024-25 school year comprised of both four and five day school weeks.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

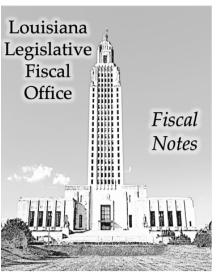
REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate <u>Dual Referral Rules</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H} <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}	House <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S} <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}
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Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer

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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

Operations & Transportation

Some areas in which school districts operating on a four-day week may have realized savings include, but are not limited to: building operational costs, transportation costs, pay for contracted workers, and the cost to provide meal services to students. Operational cost savings are dependent on the extent to which schools opt to open buildings on the fifth day for other student activities. Transportation cost savings are not likely to be significant, and are dependent on the method by which a school district implemented a four-day week. Some districts both lengthened instructional days and extended school year start and end dates. Any impacts to transportation related costs, due to lower fuel usage and school bus operator pay, which is dependent on mileage traveled, will vary by school district and are not likely to be significant. For illustrative purposes, the average school district, operating under a standard five-day week based on legislative requirements, has 177 days of student instruction per year. For the 2023-24 school year, the calendars of the school districts that have implemented four-day weeks provide the number of student instruction days as follows:

<u>District</u>	<u># of Student Instructional Days</u>
Acadia	149
Cameron	N/A
Evangeline	156
Grant	155
LaSalle	154
Avoyelles	147
Caldwell	145
Beauregard	N/A*
Franklin	147
Bogalusa City Schools	146

Based on the above, districts with 4-day school weeks have an average of 150 student instructional days per year. This is 27 days less than the 177 standard statewide requirement. While the cost of transportation will vary by district, this would represent an average 15% decrease in days and an assumed, average 15% reduction in transportation costs for these districts. As a result of proposed legislation, these districts could anticipate a 15% increase in transportation costs to revert back to five-day weeks.

Meal Services

Of the 98 school sites within the 9 districts currently allowing* a four-day school week, 87 sites, representing an estimated 31,530 students, are eligible for meals provided by the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) service. CEP is a non-pricing meal service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas that allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students, without collecting household applications. There would be an increase in federal fund expenditures to provide additional meals to students as a result of these school sites moving from a four day week to a five day week. Based on data from previous years, it is estimated providing one breakfast and one lunch per student, per day costs \$6.68. **Federal fund expenditures associated with the 87 sites receiving CEP services, could increase by \$210,634 (31,530 students x \$6.68 meals) for each additional day of instruction.**

Other sites may participate in the reduced priced meals program. These sites would also see an increase in federal fund expenditures as a result of increased instructional days. To the extent funding is appropriated for the provisions in Act 305 of the 2023 RS, SGF expenditures may also be impacted. Act 305 requires the Louisiana Department of Education to reimburse schools in an amount equal to the difference between the reimbursement rates provided by the federal reduced price meal program and the actual cost of meals. In FY 24, this amount equaled \$0.30 per breakfast and \$0.40 per lunch. Any increase in SGF expenditures related to this is expected to be minimal, only has the potential to impact students attending school sites not currently receiving meals through CEP (11 sites representing an estimated 550 students) and would only be effectuated if the legislature appropriates funds for this purpose. In FY 24, the state provided up to \$0.70 per student per day to provide children receiving reduced priced meals free meals. Assuming all 550 students not enrolled in CEP serviced schools are eligible for reduced priced meals, it would cost the state an additional \$385 (550 students x \$0.70 LDOE reimbursement amount) per additional instructional day. This cost would only be realized in any year the provisions of Act 305 are effectuated by appropriation of funds by the legislature for such purpose.

Personnel Services

A majority of school funding is spent on certified teacher and support staff salaries. Considering this, and the information provided above, it is expected any cost savings realized as a result of the move to a four-day week, particularly state and local fund expenditures, are likely to have been marginal. As a result, disallowing a four-day week may result in an increase in these expenditures, but such an increase is also expected to be marginal.

*Beauregard has approved implementation of a hybrid schedule for the 2024-25 school year. Potential expenditures above do not consider impacts to the 12 school sites and 5,731 students in this system.

Senate
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

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