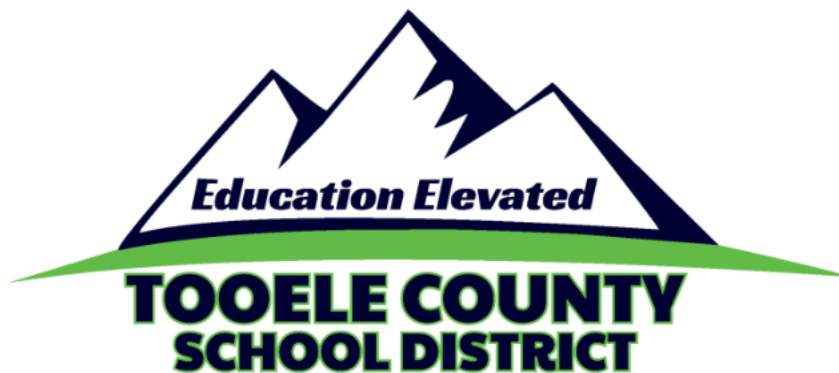


**Tooele County School District
Application
Waiver of Administrative Rule
Four Day Week**



Form - Application/Cover Sheet

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Waiver of Administrative Rule

UAC R277-121 allows an LEA to request a waiver from a Board rule. This cover sheet should be used as a checklist in preparation of necessary materials and supporting documents.

1. LEA: Tooele County School District
2. SCHOOL(S): Dugway K-12 School, Vernon Elementary, Ibapah Elementary, Anna Smith Elementary, and Wendover High School
3. RULE REQUESTING TO BE WAIVED: R277-419-4
4. REASONING/JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUESTED WAIVER:

Please see the attached letter and documents.

5. CHOOSE ONE:

THIS IS A NEW WAIVER

THIS IS A REQUEST TO RENEW AN EXISTING WAIVER

DATE WAIVER WAS FIRST GRANTED: 2018-2019

A waiver was requested for Dugway and Vernon schools. It also stated that Tooele County School District has two other schools on a four-day authorization, Wendover High and Anna Smith Elementary, also expiring following the 2022-23 school year. Upon conclusion of all waivers, we will ask for reauthorization for these schools, placing them all on the same rotation. That waiver was approved in 2023 and will expire in 2026. Therefore, we are applying to renew the exiting waiver.

6. ATTACH DATA TO SUPPORT THE REQUEST WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE:

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA

COMMUNITY, STAFF, OR STUDENT SURVEY DATA

STUDENT ENROLLMENT DATA

X FOR RENEWALS: DOCUMENTATION THAT OUTLINES HOW THE WAIVER WAS UTILIZED

The waiver has been utilized to implement a four-day school week for our **NESS** (outlying/rural) schools to better align with the schedules and needs of their communities. This alignment provides students and families with Fridays to address essential needs such as medical appointments, employment responsibilities, and community obligations. It also supports families connected to the nearby military base by matching the base's work-week structure.

To ensure that instructional objectives continue to be fully met, we have established targeted support and incentives for both staff and students. These measures help maintain high-quality teaching and learning while offering a schedule that better serves the diverse needs of our school community.

7. ATTACH VERIFICATION OF THE FOLLOWING (AS APPLICABLE TO THE TYPE OF LEA)

X LEA GOVERNING BOARD VOTE APPROVING REQUEST FOR WAIVER IN OPEN MEETING

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE BOARD OF THE SCHOOL'S AUTHORIZER (CHARTER SCHOOLS)

8. ATTACH PROOF / CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:

X Under R277-121-2(6) You must hold at least two open and public meetings, held separately from regular board meetings, to engage with stakeholders regarding the waiver request. At least one of the meetings shall be held BEFORE a vote is taken to apply for the waiver, during which the LEA or public school shall: (A) explain the rationale for seeking the waiver; and (B) listen to stakeholder concerns; and (ii) At least one of the meetings shall be held after the decision to apply for the waiver but before the submission of the application, during which the LEA or public school shall: (A) explain the waiver process; and (B) describe plans to address stakeholder concerns.

Please note that the two meetings described in this section may be held electronically.

X TIMELINE: First, the LEA must hold a public meeting to discuss the waiver, explain the rationale, and listen to stakeholder concerns. Then, the LEA Board can vote to approve the request for a waiver in an open meeting. Third, the LEA must hold a second public meeting

to explain the waiver process and describe plans to address stakeholder concerns. Finally, the LEA can submit the waiver application to USBE, through the AAG]

9. An LEA or public school applying for a waiver shall submit the waiver or waiver renewal, as described in Subsection R277-121-4(1), for the 4-day school week to the Board by April 10 of the school year prior to the proposed change. It is before April 10 of the year the waiver is planned to go into affect?

Yes

No

As you already identified, you must receive approval of your Charter Authorizer as well as your school's governing board. The approvals must take place by a vote of each board in an open meeting. You can attach a copy of the meeting minutes or a letter from the governing board leadership/chair. When the request is presented to USBE, the Board members will be especially interested in why you want the waiver, how it impacts students, and your school's overall student achievement. I will provide the required Agreement once you have provided all of the other required information.

When you have collected the required information, please email it to me. I will then request that the matter be placed on the USBE Law and Licensing Committee Agenda. This meeting is held once a month on the day following the USBE monthly meeting. The Committee will review the request, and if approved, it will be placed on the following month's USBE Meeting Agenda for consideration by the full Board.



April 6, 2026

Utah State Office of Education
250 East 500 South
PO Box 144200
Salt Lake City, Utah, 84114-4200

Request to renew and existing waiver allowing a four-day week at Dugway K-12 school, Vernon Elementary Ibapah Elementary, Anna Smith Elementary, and Wendover High School.

Superintendent Hart and Board Members:

This letter is a formal request to renew the waiver allowing Tooele County School District (TCSD) to continue a four-day school week at Dugway K-12 school, Vernon Elementary Ibapah Elementary, Anna Smith Elementary, and Wendover High School. The reauthorization will begin in August 2026 and extend through June 2029. Each of these schools is located in a rural part of Tooele County and is a Necessarily Existing Small School. We, as district leadership, feel that this will benefit our students and staff. Continuing a four-day school week will ensure that student academic progress is first and foremost.

In compliance with changes to Administrative Rule R277-419-4, TCSD held two public meetings both in person and virtual to discuss a potential request for a waiver, explain the rationale, and listen to stakeholder concerns. The first meeting was held on Wednesday, October 29, 2025. Then our Tooele County School District board members met and voted unanimously during the November 11, 2025, TCSD open school board meeting to seek a waiver renewal of a

four-day school week. Parent feedback also came from a survey given in December 2025. The second public meeting was held in person and virtually on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, to explain the waiver process and describe plans to address stakeholder concerns. Community support for the four-day school week remains firm in Dugway, Vernon, Ibapah, and Wendover. In these schools, 95% of employees and 88% of families support continuation of the four-day.

Dugway Proving Ground, a military installation, operates on a four-day week; the base is home to Dugway School. Dugway base commander Colonel Sansom endorses remaining on a four-day week.

The amount of time a student is in school coupled with quality instruction by a licensed professional is vital to student success and student growth. It is our goal to maintain student attendance as our focus and need. By utilizing and structuring all student activities at Dugway and Wendover High Schools on a Friday/Saturday schedule, the schools focus on a more consistent and unfailing commitment to academic achievement and student educational involvement.

Maintaining the four-day week will allow families in these rural communities to plan medical and other appointments on the day schools are not in session.

The attached data show learning for the current school year; as well as previous years. All data is available on the USBE data gateway.

As was approved in the letter in April 2023, for the above-mentioned schools which were placed on the same rotation, we agreed to sunset the renewal waiver at the end of the 2025-26 school year. We would like to continue with these schools on a four-day week and are asking for reauthorization of the waiver with the new sunset date to be at the end of the 2028-2029 school year. TCSD acknowledges that USBE may require annual updates concerning this reauthorization, and we agree to adhere to all requests.

Please read and review the information included for consideration. The Tooele County School District is committed to providing high academic standards, curriculum, and programs to provide opportunities for all students to realize their fullest potential and celebrate their academic achievements.

Thank You,

Angie Gillette
Grantsville Area Director
Tooele County School District

Members: Todd Thompson, Scott Bryan, ValaRee Shields, Emily Syphus, Elizabeth Smith

Dr. Mark Ernst, Superintendent Lark Reynolds, Business Administrator

Four-Day Week Timeline and Checklist

September

- Gather data

October

- 1st Public Meeting
- Discuss potential request for the waiver
- Explain rationale
- Listen to stakeholder concerns

November

- Waiver request voted on by the Bd.
- Survey

January

- 2nd Public Meeting
 - o Explain the waiver process
 - o Describe plans to address stakeholder concerns

February

- Finalize application

April

- **Application due to USBE April 10, 2026**

Public Meeting #1



Community Meeting

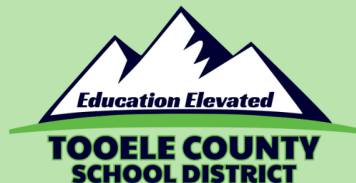
WHS, ASE, IES, VES, AND DUGWAY SCHOOLS

***Topic of Discussion: Renewal of
Four-day Week Waiver***

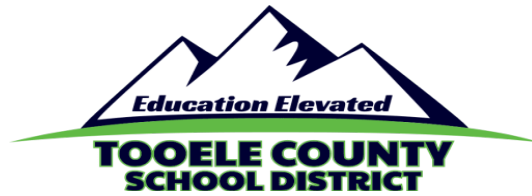
Wednesday, October 29

5:00-6:00 PM

In-person at the TCSD Office and Wendover High School



FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT-
YOUR SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATOR
OR
ANGIE GILLETTE
GRANTSVILLE AREA DIRECTOR
435-833-1900 EXT. 1108



Community Meeting #1

Meeting Details

- **Topic of Discussion:** Renewal of Four-day Week Waiver
- **Date:** Wednesday, October 29 **Time:** 5:00–6:00 PM
- **Location:** TCSD Office and Wendover High School
- **Schools Represented:** WHS, ASE, IES, VES, and Dugway Schools

Agenda

- Discuss potential request for the Four-day Week Waiver
- Explain rationale
- Listen to stakeholder concerns
 - Send concerns to agillette@tooeleschools.org

Four-Day Week Waiver Rationale

Utah State Board Rule: *Utah Admin. Code R277-419-4 - Minimum School Days*

(1) (a) *Except as provided in Subsection (1) and Subsection 53F-2-102(4), an LEA shall provide educational services over a minimum of 180 school days each school year.*

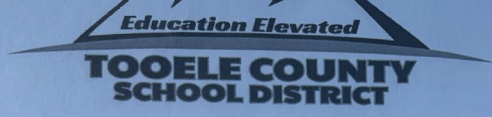
Waiver of Administrative Rule:

UAC R277-121 allows an LEA to request a waiver from a Board rule.

(Must apply for the waiver every 3 years)

Rationale

- Military base in Dugway is on a four-day week schedule
- Wendover community schools and jobs
- Vernon and Ibapah ranching and farming communities



Community Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Meeting Details

- **Topic of Discussion:** Renewal of Four-day Week Waiver
- **Date:** Wednesday, October 29
- **Time:** 5:00-6:00 PM
- **Location:** TCSD Office and Wendover High School
- **Schools Represented:** WHS, ASE, IES, VES, and Dugway Schools

Name (Please Print)	School	Role (Parent/Staff)
Jesse Sogun	Wendover High	Staff
Bradley O'Brien	Wendover High	Staff
Monica Munoz	WHS	Staff/Parent
Daisy Gomez	WHS	Staff
Bel Cortez	ASE/WHS	Parent/Staff
BRANNA D	ASE	Parent/Teacher
MICHAEL TAVILLO	WHS	Staff
Ana Escobedo	ASE	Staff/Teacher/Parent
Carlos Saavedra	ASE WHS	Parent
Kristen Holloway	ASE/Wendover High	Teacher ASE/Parent WHS
Micaela Lujan	ASE	Teacher
Stefania Duran	ASE	Teacher
leticia Cervantes	ASE	Teacher/Parent
Pitilly Rodriguez	ASE	Teacher
Rebecca Hawley	Wendover High	Staff/Teacher
Jesus Carrillo	WHS	Parent
Osiris Bermejo M	ASE	Aide Art
Carlene Roland	ASE	Staff - Instructional Coord

Public Meeting #2



Community Meeting

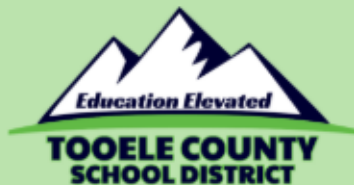
WHS, ASE, IES, VES, AND DUGWAY SCHOOLS

***Topic of Discussion: Renewal of
Four-day Week Waiver***

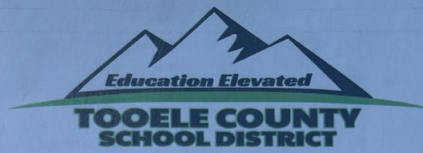
Wednesday, January 28

4:00-5:00 PM

In-person at the TCSD Office and Virtually



FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT-
YOUR SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATOR
OR
ANGIE GILLETTE
GRANTSVILLE AREA DIRECTOR
435-833-1900 EXT. 1108

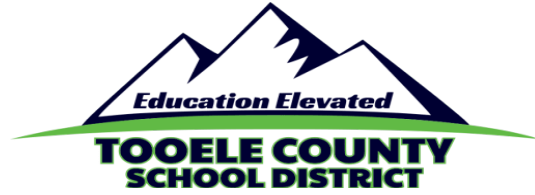


Community Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Meeting Details

- **Topic of Discussion:** Renewal of Four-day Week Waiver
- **Date:** Wednesday, January 28
- **Time:** 4:00–5:00 PM
- **Location:** TCSD Office and Wendover High School
- **Schools Represented:** WHS, ASE, IES, VES, and Dugway Schools

Name (Please Print)	School	Role (Parent/Staff)
Jaylyn Livingston	Vernon Elem.	
Margaret Brown	Vernon	
Julie Olsen	Vernon	
Mario Johnson	Vernon	
James Woodin	WHS	Principal
Ken Castagno	WHS ASE / IES	Counselor
Mike Florence	WHS	VP
Darren Westhora	DHS / DES	Principal
Gina Ruiz	ASE / IES	Principal
Rick Olson		
Kaulynn Livingston		
Martin Ortiz		
Ms. Thomas		



Four-day Week Renewal Public Meeting #2

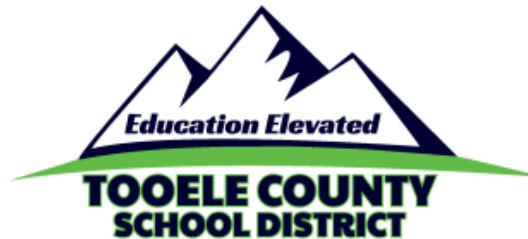
Agenda

- Explain the Waiver Process
- Describe Plans to Address Stakeholder Concerns

The majority of stakeholders are in favor of the renewal of the waiver to continue the four-day week. There were no concerns brought up at either public meeting. The rationale for continuing to seek the renewal of is listed throughout the report.

There were a few concerns/questions pertaining to the school schedule (start and end times) which were emailed to the area director and a school board member or mentioned in the stakeholder survey comments. The plan for addressing stakeholder concerns will be to look at schedule for the four-day week schools and adjust if needed. Principals and the director of NESS schools will meet to discuss this.

School Board Meeting Minutes



Board of Education Meeting - Nov 11 2025 Agenda

Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at 6:00 PM

Tooele County School District 92 Lodestone Way Tooele, Utah 84074

Action Items

The Board of Education approved the following action items:

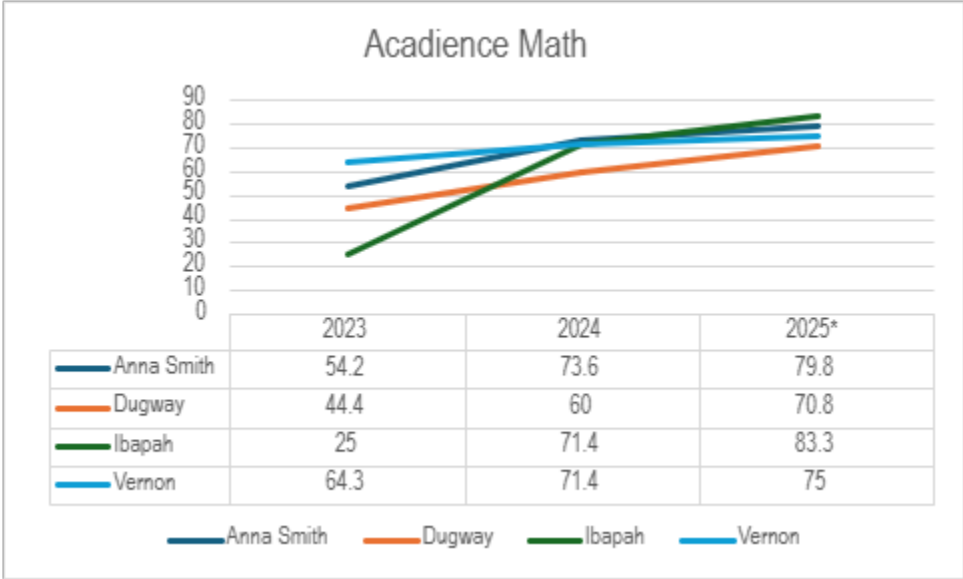
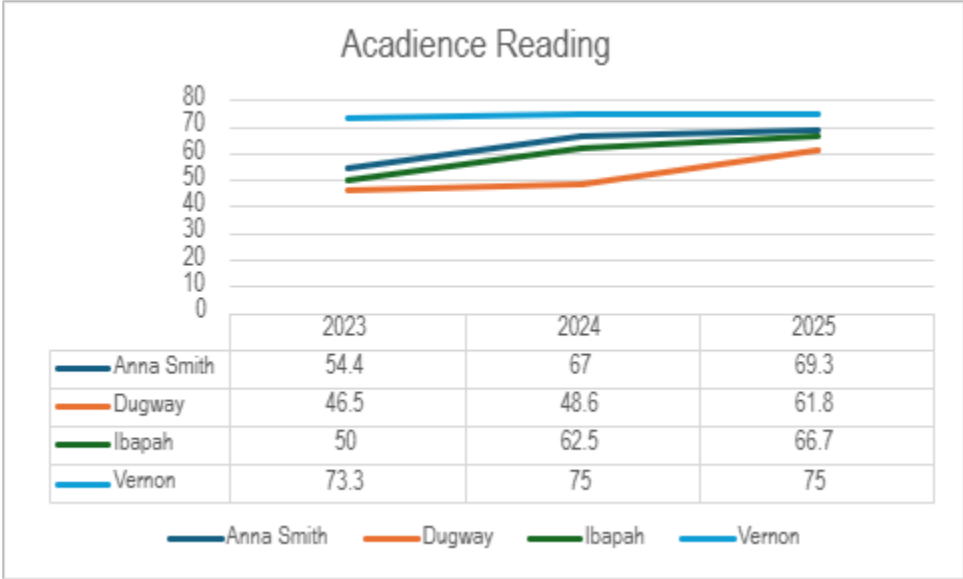
- **Waiver for 4-Day School Week for NESS Schools**
 - Grantsville Area Director requested Board approval to pursue a waiver of the 180-day school year requirement for five NESS schools, following the first public meeting, which would allow the district to hold a second meeting and submit the application to USBE by April 10, 2026.
 - **Approved the Waiver for Request**
 - **Vote: 6-0**

Student Enrollment

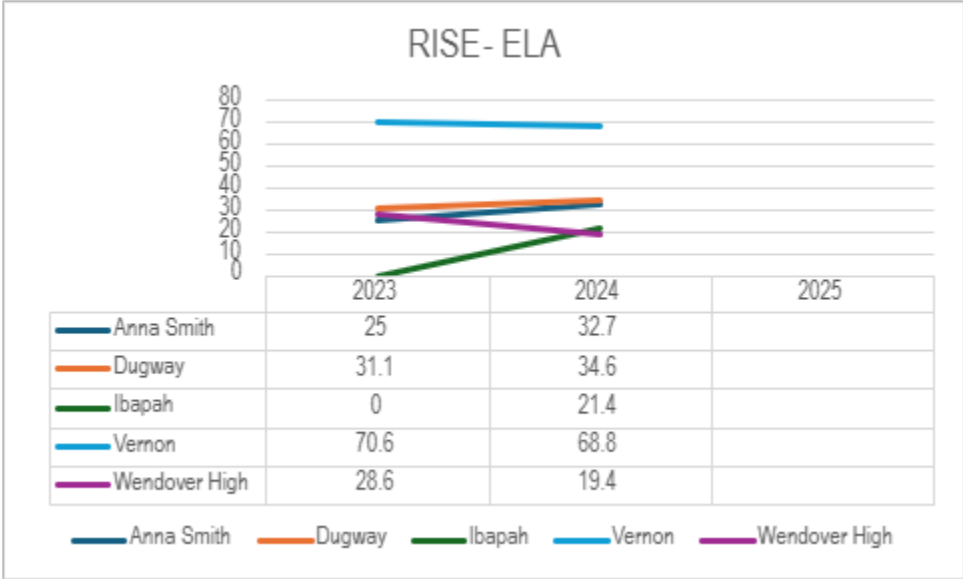
		P	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Anna Smith Elementary	October 1, 2025	20	26	25	18	25	21	27	27							189
	October 1, 2024	28	26	19	26	21	27	27	30							204
	October 1, 2023	21	19	27	19	28	31	28	14							187
Dugway	October 1, 2025	0	7	7	12	11	14	9	10	6	12	3	15	4	6	116
	October 1, 2024	0	5	10	8	10	11	9	6	10	4	14	4	6	10	107
	October 1, 2023	0	12	8	10	10	10	9	9	6	14	5	6	17	5	121
Ibapah Elementary	October 1, 2025	0	1	2	1	2	3	1	4							14
	October 1, 2024	0	1	1	3	2	2	3	6							18
	October 1, 2023	0	1	3	3	1	3	4	5							20
Vernon Elementary	October 1, 2025	0	3	0	2	2	3	4	4							18
	October 1, 2024	0	0	3	3	3	4	4	3							20
	October 1, 2023	0	3	4	6	4	4	3	5							29
Wendover High	October 1, 2025									26	17	25	28	22	33	151
	October 1, 2024									19	31	33	26	36	26	171
	October 1, 2023									28	36	26	38	23	34	185

Student Achievement Data

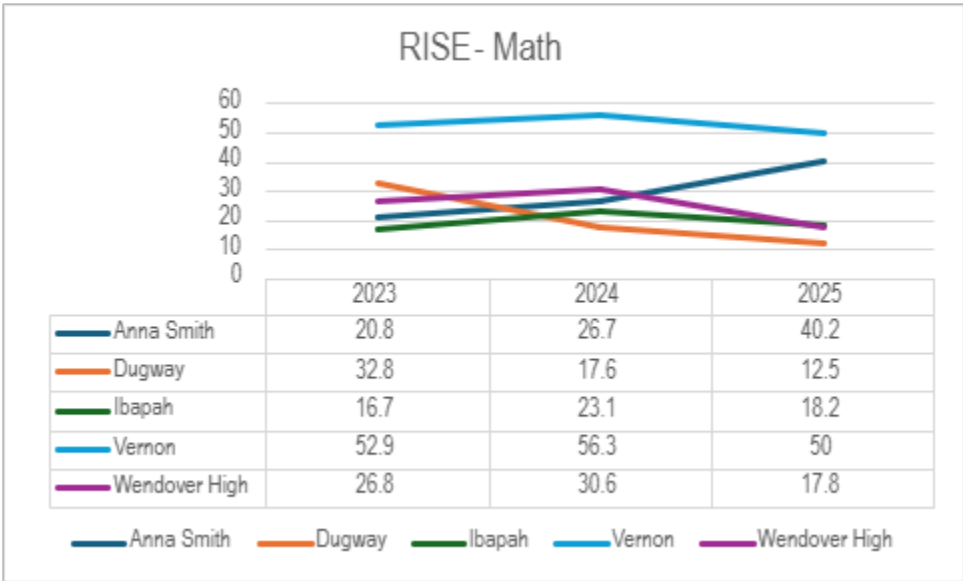
Acadience Data for NESS Schools

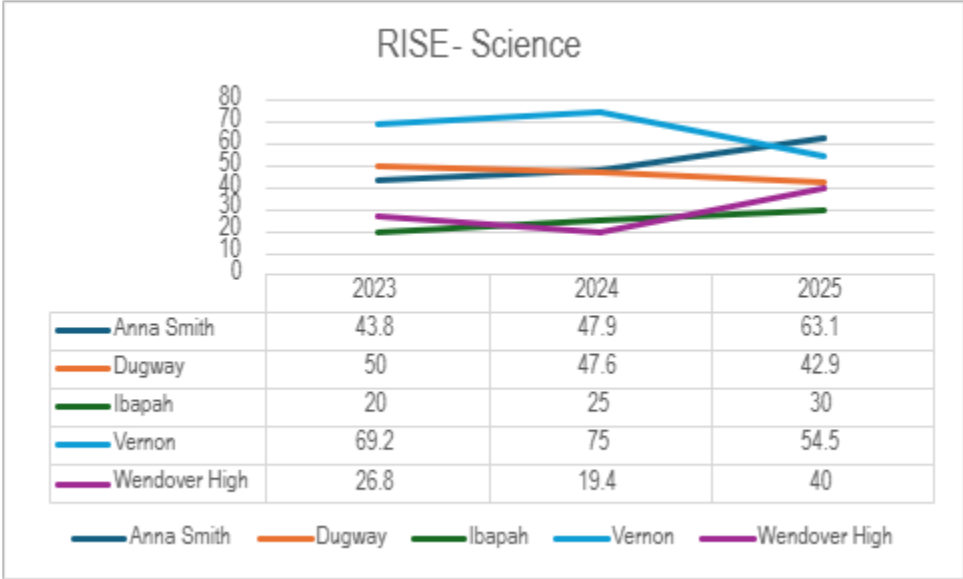


RISE Data

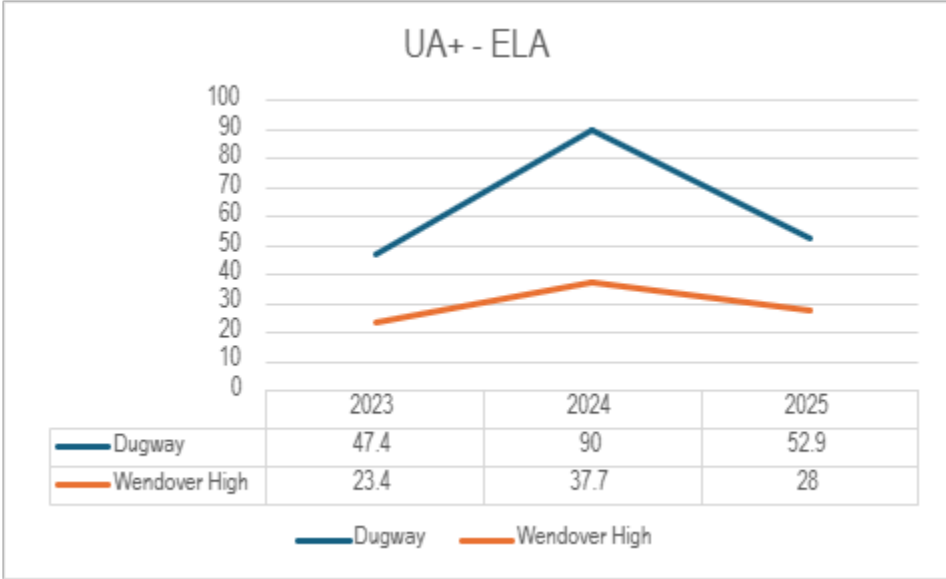


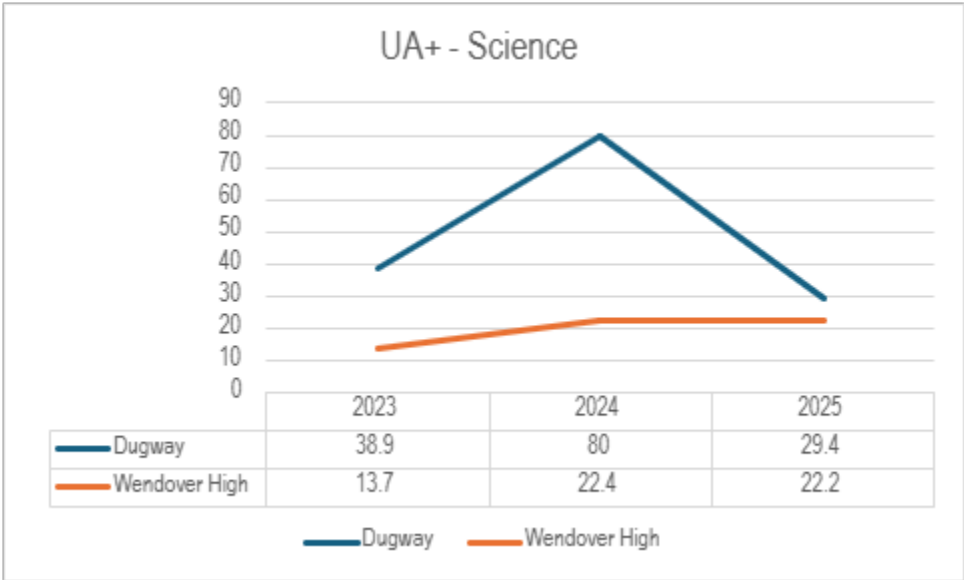
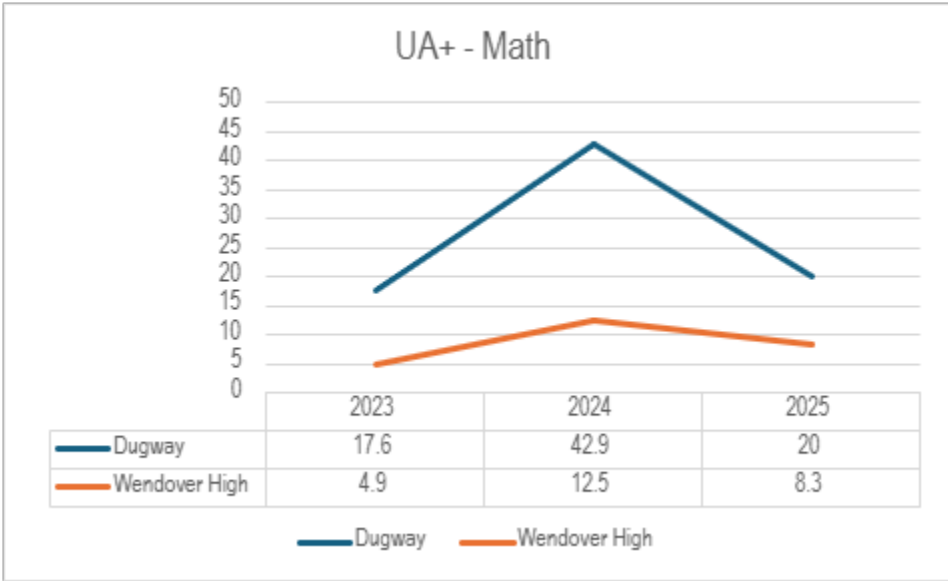
School	2025
Anna Smith	35.6
Dugway	30.4
Ibapah	10.0
Vernon	69.2
Wendover High	32.6





UA+ Data





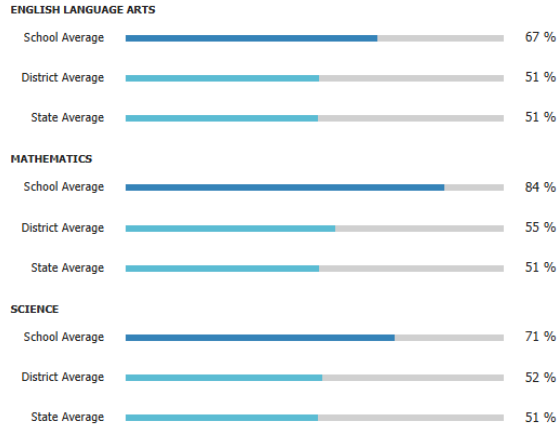
Student Growth by School

Anna Smith

HOW IS THIS SCHOOL PERFORMING IN EACH SUBJECT AREA?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	66.7%	High	View Details
MATHEMATICS	84.4%	High	View Details
SCIENCE	71.2%	High	View Details

HOW DID THIS SCHOOL PERFORM COMPARED TO THE DISTRICT AND STATE?



HOW IS THIS SCHOOL PERFORMING ON GROWTH OF LOWEST 25%?

GROWTH OF LOWEST 25%	87.3%	↑ 14.0% increase from 2024 score	View Details
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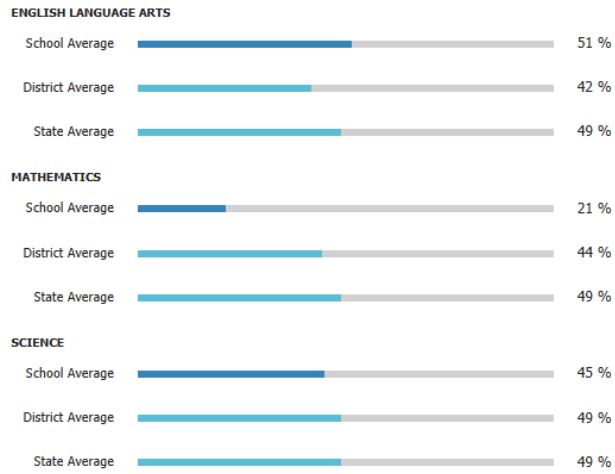
IES -ND

Wendover High School

HOW IS THIS SCHOOL PERFORMING IN EACH SUBJECT AREA?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	51.4%	Average	View Details
MATHEMATICS	21.2%	Low	View Details
SCIENCE	44.8%	Low	View Details

HOW DID THIS SCHOOL PERFORM COMPARED TO THE DISTRICT AND STATE?



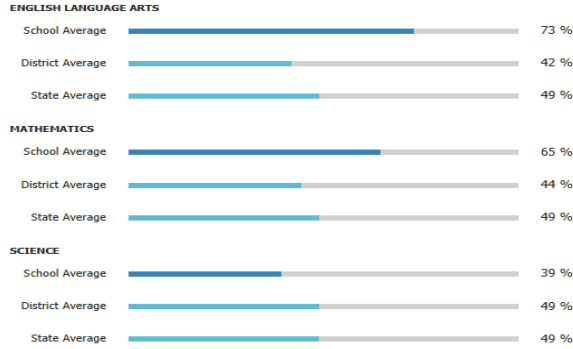
HOW IS THIS SCHOOL PERFORMING ON GROWTH OF LOWEST 25%?

GROWTH OF LOWEST 25%	48.5%	↓ -20.7% decrease from 2024 score	View Details
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HOW IS THIS SCHOOL PERFORMING IN EACH SUBJECT AREA?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	73.2%	High	View Details
MATHEMATICS	64.6%	High	View Details
SCIENCE	39.3%	Low	View Details

HOW DID THIS SCHOOL PERFORM COMPARED TO THE DISTRICT AND STATE?



HOW IS THIS SCHOOL PERFORMING ON GROWTH OF LOWEST 25%?

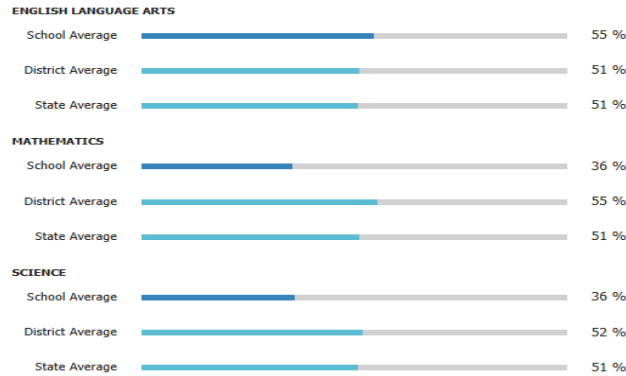
GROWTH OF LOWEST 25%	54.5%	ND no increase or decrease from 2024 score	View Details
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Dugway K-8

HOW IS THIS SCHOOL PERFORMING IN EACH SUBJECT AREA?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	54.7%	High	View Details
MATHEMATICS	35.5%	Low	View Details
SCIENCE	36.0%	Low	View Details

HOW DID THIS SCHOOL PERFORM COMPARED TO THE DISTRICT AND STATE?



HOW IS THIS SCHOOL PERFORMING ON GROWTH OF LOWEST 25%?

GROWTH OF LOWEST 25%	52.2%	↑ 9.3% Increase from 2024 score	View Details
----------------------	-------	------------------------------------	------------------------------

Vernon

HOW IS THIS SCHOOL PERFORMING IN EACH SUBJECT AREA?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	55.0%	High
MATHEMATICS	27.5%	Low
SCIENCE		ND

[View Details](#)

[View Details](#)

ACT Data

School	22-23	23-24	24-25
Dugway	ND	45.5%	ND
Wendover	28.1%	36.4%	27.3%

Graduation

School	22-23	23-24	24-25
Dugway	100%	100%	100%
Wendover	96.3%	86.5%	94.4%

Attendance Data

School	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
ASE	72.5%	74.2%	72.2%
IES	52.6%	72.7%	72.7%
WHS	75.4%	76.3%	74%
VES	72.2%	86.2%	95%
Dugway	76.6%	71.2%	70.2%

Survey

The survey was open in November and December.

Four-Day Week Survey Questions

Purpose: To gain feedback to the waiver renewal

Opening Statement for Survey...

Dear TCSD Parents and Guardians/Staff,

We are preparing our renewal waiver to the Utah State Board of Education for the four-day school week. We value your input. Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey.

Q1: Are you a parent/guardian or staff member?

Q2: School my student attends... or School I am employed at...

Q3: The four-day week is beneficial for my child or The four-day week is beneficial for student learning.

Q4: The four-day week is beneficial for our family or The four-day week if beneficial for my job performance.

Q5: Please rate your support of continuing a four-day school week.

Q6: Please give additional input you would like Tooele County School District administration and school board members to know about.

Survey Results

Total responses

157 responses

73 parents (47%)

WHS-29 (40%)

ASE-26 (36%)

IES-1 (1%)

Dugway-26 (36%)

VES-8 (11%)

82 staff members (53%)

Summary

Four-day Week Stakeholder Feedback

Family Feedback

86% of families agree the four-day week is beneficial

88% of families support continuing the four-day week

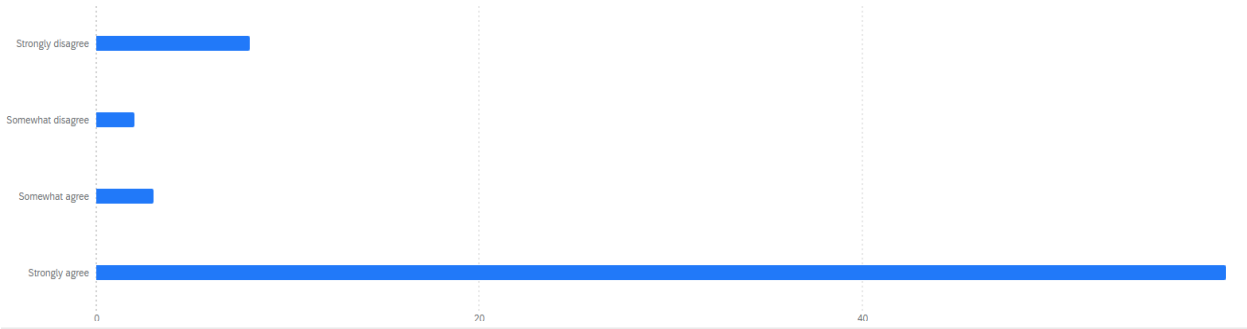
Employee Feedback

80% of employees believe it improves their job performance

95% of employees support continuing the four-day week

- **86%** of families agree the four-day week is beneficial
- **88%** of families support continuing the four-day week
- **80%** of employees believe it improves their job performance
- **95%** of employees support continuing the four-day week

Q4: The four-day week is beneficial for my child. 72 ⓘ



Q4: The four-day week is beneficial for my child. 72 ⓘ >

Q4 - The four-day week is beneficial for my child.	Count	Count
Strongly disagree	11%	8
Somewhat disagree	3%	2
Somewhat agree	4%	3
Strongly agree	82%	59

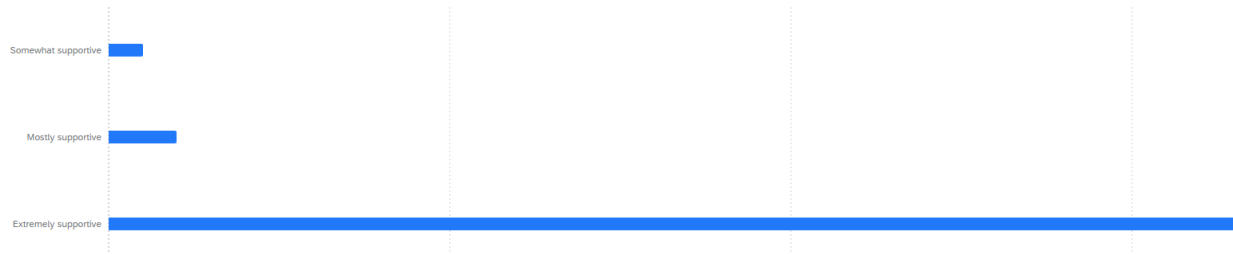
Q5: The four-day week is beneficial for our family. 70 ⓘ



Q5: The four-day week is beneficial for our family. 70 ⓘ

Q5 - The four-day week is beneficial for our family.	Count	Count
Strongly disagree	3%	2
Neither agree nor disagree	1%	1
Somewhat agree	4%	3
Strongly agree	91%	64

Q6: Please rate your support of continuing on a 4-day school week. 72 ①



Summary of Parent/Guardian Comments

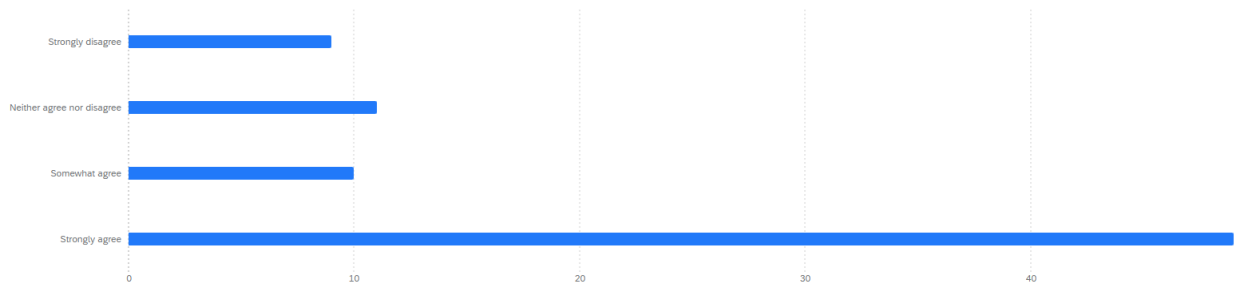
- We are writing to express our strong support for the four-day school week and to highlight the significant benefits it has provided for our child's education and well-being. Since transitioning from a traditional five-day elementary school to her current four-day schedule, our child has shown remarkable improvement both academically and emotionally. She is more engaged in class, less stressed, and more excited about learning than ever before. This firsthand experience has made it clear that the four-day model is not only effective—it is transformative. Research consistently shows that the four-day school week can improve student outcomes. Studies summarized by the Brookings Institution and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) report that districts implementing a four-day week often see improvements in student attendance, reductions in fatigue, and in many cases, equal or slightly improved academic performance compared to five-day schedules. In particular, schools that maintain strong instructional quality while adopting the four-day format frequently report higher teacher satisfaction and retention, which directly benefits students through more stable and experienced classroom instruction. Additionally, research published in journals such as Education Finance and Policy notes that four-day schedules can reduce student behavioral issues and tardiness, further creating an environment more conducive to learning. Many families also report that the extended weekend allows children more time for rest, enrichment activities, and meaningful family interaction—factors widely associated with improved mental health and readiness to learn. Based on our experience and the growing body of evidence, the four-day school week offers immense benefits for children, families, and educators. Our child is thriving in ways she never did under the traditional five-day model, and we believe this innovative approach should be strongly considered—if not made standard—for all schools seeking to promote student success, well-being, and teacher sustainability. The four-day week works, and our child is living proof.
- Four-day school weeks are great. I think every school should be this way.
- Easier to attend appointments. I like that school events that would normally make kids miss instruction can be held on Fridays.
- Works with our schedule perfectly. I believe it's super beneficial for my child.
- We work at Dugway, but we live off post. The 4-day work week helps us balance work and school life.

- Our attendance has been amazing with Fridays off! All appointments are scheduled on Friday, and my kids don't miss important schoolwork.
- It is nice to have the small class size and 4 day week to have more family time.
- I like that I have my children at home on Friday's that I can spend more quality family time with her and also working more on her learning because I have more time with her. It is less stressful on my family life and I appreciate it.
- I think it is wonderful that the school schedule aligns with the Dugway installation work schedule.
- I LOVE the 4-day school week and wish the entire district would adopt this policy. I love to be with my children, and I miss them when they are gone. I do think there needs to be some adjustments in the schedule -I think there could be so time adjustments that would benefit students, parents, and teachers.
- It works out better on my schedule
- Being in a small community, a four-day week schedule works because we can schedule medical appointments on Fridays. This reducesthe absences.
- I think four days is good for kids with three days off. I think they learn more. I think they are ready to go back and give them a little bit more time to enjoy their other stuff.
- The four-day school week is an essential element in the Dugway community. It is one of the things that allows the unique culture here to function.
- I don't feel like they are in school long enough to compete with students that go every day.
- 4 day weeks allow the students to participate in sports and travel a distance away and still keep their grades up. I feel as though the 4-day week allows the kids the time needed to do homework as well as serve in the community, participate in extra-curricular as well as participate in family time.
- A four-day work week mirrors the workforce on Dugway. We love it!
- Gives an extra day for kids to catch up on homework
- I fully support and agree with 4-day school weeks. 2 of my 3 school aged kids see a psychiatrist 1-2x a month and with this schedule they don't miss important class time. I vote to continue!

Q8: School I am employed at... 80 ⓘ

Q8 - School I am employed at...	Count
Wendover High School	23%
Anna Smith Elementary	24%
Ibapah Elementary	1%
Dugway	44%
Vernon Elementary	9%

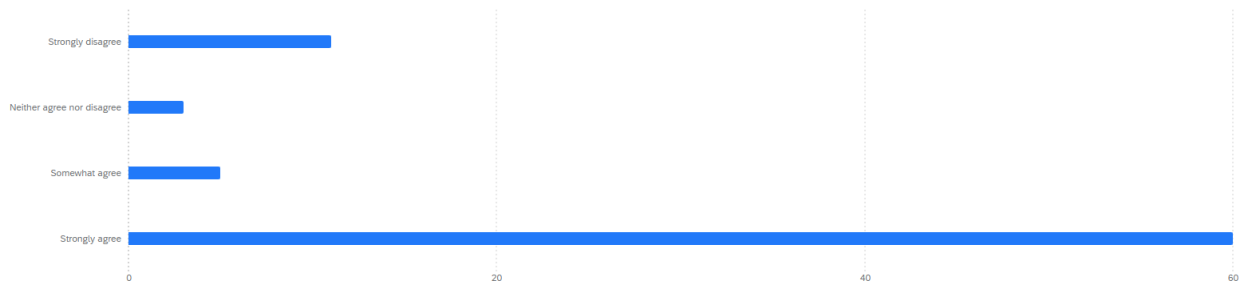
Q9: The four-day week is beneficial for student learning. 79 ⓘ



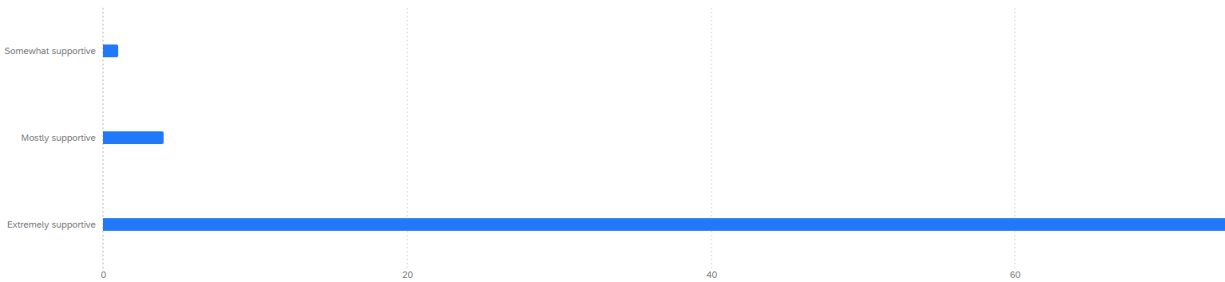
Q9: The four-day week is beneficial for student learning. 79 ⓘ

Q9 - The four-day week is beneficial for student learning.	Count
Strongly disagree	11%
Neither agree nor disagree	14%
Somewhat agree	13%
Strongly agree	62%

Q10: The four-day week is beneficial for my job performance. 79 ⓘ



Q11: Please rate your support of continuing on a 4-day school week. 79 ⓘ



Summary of Employee Comments

- This is my first experience working on a 4-day schedule and I can see the benefits in students and staff. In my case, my classes are working efficiently and my results show it. I feel less stressed and I have more time to plan and grade my students' work. Having Fridays off is essential for me because I can use this time to search for more ideas and resources for my classes. I have also used this time to take courses and attend conferences for my professional growth without interrupting my classes. My students can participate in after school activities and have extra time to work on their assignments and homework over the weekend.
- I commute from the valley, and it helps to only work 4 days.
- Since the base has a 4-day work week, families on base value that as family time.
- 4 day weeks prevent teacher burnout
- It has been extremely beneficial having 4-Day school with absences.
- The four-day week schedule is great for parents and we have fewer absences.
- Being an employee out in a remote area, especially for support employees who do not have the option of sick/personal leave, the four-day work week is extremely beneficial for us. Not only the students but also for students and parents. Being able to take ourselves/students into Salt Lake, which becomes a whole day in and of itself, without having them absent for any instruction is really great. I believe our students enjoy having a 4-day school week and from what I see around school, they are performing well. Having an extra day off can be very beneficial for both students and staff morale.
- It has been known to raise attendance numbers.
- To be quite frank, the extra day off, for me, is a huge benefit. It's an extra day to relax and rest. The world is rough these days, having 3 days off makes it just a little easier, especially when you have to drive 1.5 hours to the nearest doctor and you don't have to worry about losing pay for taking a day off. Thank you!
- The children are more attentive in a 4-day school week. There is a difference in their demeaners toward school and their efficiency. It is also nice that we have small classroom sizes that make this 4-day school week so efficient.
- Four-day school day is beneficial for student well-being and teacher mental health.
- I think the minutes of each class need to be closer to the minutes of the bigger schools for ELA, Math, Science. I don't know how that would work, though.

- I think the rural schools benefit by having a four-day school week. It helps the attendance as families have the ability to work together/dr. appts on Fridays. I do think the students should go to school for an additional 20-30 minutes a day so that teachers can get time for some more teaching.
- I don't know if this is the proper venue, but although I love the four-day school week, I do have to plan prioritized content. This works very well, but I do think that the school day should be longer. We need those extra minutes. I know that is probably an unpopular opinion, but I think even that small amount of time each day would add up in the long run. Thank you.
- Having an extra day in our week is beneficial for mental health of students and staff.
- Given the travel time some students need to make and where students parents are employed the 4-day work week is beneficial.
- The four-day school week helps students and staff from burnout. It increase learning and promote productivity as staff member.
- The 4-day school week is very beneficial for our students and parents, because most of our parents either work the same 4-day week, and/or commute their children from a good distance away.
- The base is closed on Fridays and in the past, those days had limited student attendance when we were on a 5 day.
- I feel healthier and happier on a 4-day schedule.
- Because of the base not having work on Fridays, our attendance on Friday will suffer if Friday school days are reinstated.
- The commute is draining and I would consider moving to a different school if I had to make that drive 5 days a week.
- The students can perform their best on four schools days.
- Having worked both a 5 day and a 4-day week, I am confident that I am much more effective working the 4-day week.
- I think the four-day week has been beneficial, in that the students have a more streamlined week, where we can focus their learning.
- I'm a teacher and a 4-day week has had many benefits for the teachers, students, and families in our community. Since we are in rural area where this little to no access to hospitals it has worked wonders for scheduling doctor visits on Fridays without having to compromise a full day of school. It also has helped us when planning trips and running errands in the city such as buying clothes, taking our cars for oil changes, and even grabbing cheaper groceries. The students are also having success and are more motivated to come to school and learn; with less burnout.
- We see that when we push our students in a 4-day school week, they are more involved and don't have extra time to sit around.
- The student attendance would suffer if they were required to come to school on Fridays.
- The 4 Day works well since it aligns with the base schedule.
- This has assisted with the 4 Day week the military has.

- The schedule aligns with the families who attend our school. During the school day, my planning is very intentional, and I am able to teach all the material in the time that I have.

Summary and Additional Information

The following information is provided to help address questions that may arise regarding the four-day school week and its impact on students, families, and learning outcomes.

Benefits of the Four-Day Week for Students and Learning

Supports Families and Attendance

- In Dugway, many parents work on a four-day work schedule aligned with the base. Aligning the school schedule with family schedules improves student attendance. Most of the staff and student body drive in or are bused in from areas other than the base.
- Families in Wendover often need to take elementary students out of school on Fridays to travel long distances—over 100 miles—for medical appointments or to attend high school sporting events. A four-day week reduces these disruptions.
- Limited local shopping means families must travel for basic supplies such as clothing. Having Fridays off supports these needs.
- Childcare options are limited.
- Many parents, including school employees, in Wendover work second jobs at local casinos Friday through Sunday.
- Vernon and Ibapah are farming and ranching communities; a four-day week allows students to assist with agricultural responsibilities.
- With fewer interruptions, instructional time is more focused.

District Benefits

- Cost savings in transportation
- Helps with retention and recruitment of veteran teachers because it is a long drive for staff. The four-day week helps them have more time with families and saves fuel costs.

Focused Instruction on Core Subjects

- Teachers in outlying schools understand the importance of staying laser-focused on essential standards.
- Educators know their students well and tailor instruction to individual needs.
- Teacher motivation is high, and parent involvement has increased.

Community, Demographic Context, School Characteristics

- West Wendover, Nevada also operates on a four-day school week.
- Wendover, Utah
 - The nearest cities with full amenities are:
 - Elko, Nevada – 107 miles
 - Tooele, Utah – 106 miles
 - Salt Lake City, Utah – 130 miles
- Wendover High School serves grades 7–12, with some students traveling from Ibapah on a one-hour bus ride each way daily.
- Both Anna Smith Elementary and Wendover High School are Spanish Dual Language Immersion schools.

How Schools Ensure Learning Objectives Are Met

Professional Development and Administrative Support

- Administrators participate in ongoing monthly professional development provided by the district. They bring this training back to their schools to support instructional improvement.
- District directors and specialists visit schools monthly and remain available for additional support.

School Improvement Planning

- School administrators and their guiding coalitions have developed school improvement/semester plans.
- These teams meet regularly to review goals, align practices with district expectations, and analyze data.

Collaboration Across Schools

- Outlying schools work closely with valley schools to provide opportunities for both students and teachers.
- This collaboration strengthens instructional practices and expands access to resources.

Key Takeaway

The four-day school week supports families, improves attendance, strengthens instructional focus, and aligns with the unique needs of rural communities such as Wendover, Dugway, Vernon, and Ibapah. Through strong professional development, data-driven planning, and collaboration, schools ensure that learning objectives continue to be met effectively.

Thank You!