

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1940

5 By: Representatives Walker, J. Mayberry, S. Berry, Cozart, Eaton, Hall, Hollowell, McClure, Milligan,  
6 K. Moore, Painter, Pearce, Puryear, J. Richardson, Schulz, Vaught, Wooten  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT CONCERNING A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT  
11 IMPLEMENTS A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL  
12 WITHIN ITS DISTRICT; TO ESTABLISH THE REQUIREMENTS  
13 FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT INITIATES AND  
14 MAINTAINS A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK; TO DECLARE AN  
15 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

18 TO ESTABLISH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A  
19 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT INITIATES  
20 AND MAINTAINS A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK;  
21 AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.  
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-10-117 is amended to read as follows:

27 6-10-117. Four-day school week – Definition.

28 (a)(1) It is found and determined by the General Assembly that  
29 granting ~~local~~ public school districts greater flexibility in scheduling  
30 instructional time can reap educational benefits for the students and  
31 financial rewards for the public school district.

32 (2) It is the intent of this section to authorize ~~local~~ public  
33 school districts to initiate and maintain public school educational programs  
34 on a four-day school-week basis, ~~so long as~~ if planned instructional time ~~is~~  
35 ~~in accord with requirements established by~~ meets the State Board of Education  
36 requirements promulgated under subsection (d) of this section.



1 (b) As used in this section, "four-day school week" means an  
 2 educational program in which all students attend school for four (4) days a  
 3 week but no fewer than the total number of hours required by the Standards  
 4 for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts in a five-  
 5 day school week.

6 (c)(1) The board of directors of ~~any a public~~ a public school district ~~is~~  
 7 ~~authorized to~~ may initiate and maintain a four-day school week in any or all  
 8 of the public schools in the public school district.

9 (2) The state board and the Department of Education shall not  
 10 have the authority to approve or deny the decision of a public school  
 11 district board of directors to initiate and maintain a four-day school week  
 12 in any or all of its public schools under subdivision (c)(1) of this section.

13 (d)(1) ~~The State Board of Education~~ state board shall establish  
 14 appropriate standards, guidelines, and rules for only the following:

15 (A) The determination of average daily membership of  
 16 public school districts ~~and for the distribution of state aid to each local~~  
 17 ~~school district that elects to operate any or all of the public schools of~~  
 18 ~~its school district on a four-day school week basis, to provide the school~~  
 19 ~~district with an equitable share of aid funds designated to equate a four-day~~  
 20 ~~school week operation by the school district to the educational opportunities~~  
 21 ~~provided by a school district offering a five day school week;~~

22 (B) The requirement that each public school district that  
 23 initiates and maintains a four-day school week for any or all of its public  
 24 schools under this section shall:

25 (i)(a) Average six (6) hours of instruction per  
 26 school day and thirty (30) hours of instruction per school week.

27 (b) The hourly requirements under subdivision  
 28 (d)(1)(B)(i)(a) of this section may be met with four (4) seven-and-one-half-  
 29 hour school instructional days.

30 (c) A public school district that initiates  
 31 and maintains a four-day school week in a public school that provides  
 32 instruction to students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall meet the  
 33 clock-hour equivalency of one hundred twenty (120) clock hours for a Carnegie  
 34 unit;

35 (ii)(a) Provide documentation to the Division of  
 36 Elementary and Secondary Education to determine the success of the

1 educational program.

2 (b) Assessment measures utilized by the  
 3 division under subdivision (d)(1)(B)(ii)(a) of this section shall include  
 4 without limitation state-approved criterion-referenced tests and other  
 5 assessment instruments required or approved by the division; and

6 (iii) Include the four-day school week on the agenda  
 7 for the public school district's required annual report to the public to  
 8 determine local support for and provide for continual community input into  
 9 the success and continuation of four-day school weeks; and

10 (C) The forfeiture of the ability to initiate and maintain  
 11 a four-day school week under this section if a public school district:

12 (i) Is classified by the state board as in need of  
 13 Level 5 – Intensive support; and

14 (ii) Demonstrates persistent underperformance, as  
 15 defined by state benchmarks, on the state-approved criterion-referenced test  
 16 and other assessment instruments required or approved by the division.

17 (2) ~~Provided, however, that a~~ A public school district shall not  
 18 receive any more state financial aid for offering a four-day school week of  
 19 instruction than it would have received for offering a five-day school week  
 20 of instruction.

21 (3) The state board and the department shall not promulgate  
 22 rules regarding public school districts that initiate and maintain a four-day  
 23 school week for any or all of its public schools that are in addition to the  
 24 requirements under this subsection (d).

25 (4) A public school district that initiates and maintains a  
 26 four-day school week for any or all of its public schools under this section  
 27 shall:

28 (A) Demonstrate compliance with the requirements under  
 29 subdivision (d)(1) of this section through a state-approved electronic  
 30 application; and

31 (B) Not be required to submit additional reports or  
 32 demonstrations of compliance with the requirements under subdivision (d)(1)  
 33 of this section to the state board or division.

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35 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
 36 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that school districts must

1 determine and publish their school calendars in advance of the upcoming 2025-  
2 2026 school year; that school districts must have their school calendars  
3 established in order to prepare appropriate staffing, operational, and  
4 financial needs; that parents, students, staff members, and others associated  
5 with school districts must know in advance of the upcoming school year what  
6 the school calendar will be in order to make necessary arrangements; and that  
7 this act is immediately necessary to ensure school districts have the  
8 required information to arrange for and provide constitutionally mandated  
9 education to enrolled students. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist,  
10 and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public  
11 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

12 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

13 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
14 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
15 bill; or

16 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
17 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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