



OKLAHOMA STATE
DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Ryan Walters
DATE: June 26, 2025
SUBJECT: Petition for a four-day school week

The following schools are requesting a waiver for SB441 for the 2025-2026 school year. They are wanting to adopt a calendar that has fewer than 165 instructional days a year. OAC210:10-1-4b and 70 O.S. 1-109.

County	District		Requested Year
Mayes	Osage	They are asking for a Tuesday-Friday week. 8-hour days.	2025-2026
Logan	Coyle	They are requesting a fewer than 165-day calendar. Monday -Thursday schedule.	2025-2026
Pontotoc	Stonewall	They are requesting a fewer than 165-day calendar. Monday -Thursday schedule	2025-2026

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Osage School

7960 W 490 Rd.

Pryor, OK 74361

Phone: 918-825-2550

www.osageelementary.com

Superintendent: Alex M. Monk

amonk@osageelementary.com

Ryan Walters

Oklahoma State School Board Members

Oklahoma State Department of Education

Petition for a four-day school week.

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of the students, parents, and members of our small school community to express our collective desire for a positive change in our school schedule. We believe that transitioning to a four-day school week would greatly benefit our students and the overall educational experience. We are petitioning for the transition to a four-day school week of Tuesday-Friday following the hours of 7:30am-3:30pm with 20 minutes for breakfast and lunch.

Our reasons for requesting this change are as follows:

- **Teacher Retention:** Osage has experienced a large teacher turnover issue. While the turnover does seem to be slowing down, only 3 certified teachers were retained at the end of the 2022/23 school year. Competing with Pryor Public Schools is difficult due to the benefits that Pryor can provide educators. Those benefits include: above scale pay, bonuses, paid retirement, matched outside retirement, and an abundance of classroom resources.
- **Student Retention:** Osage competes with five other school districts for student retention. While Osage can promise small class sizes, less than 15, we cannot provide the endless supply of extra-curricular activities that other schools can. We have received a TSET grant of \$15,000 and are using it to help retain our older students by constructing a workout room in our gym. Osage is working to bring

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back Outdoor Education and Athletics to the school. This year alone Osage was able to compete in archery, cross country, basketball, and track; something that has not been done in over 5 years. While an outdoor education and an athletic program is a way to retain students, the majority of our students leave Osage at the end of their 6th grade year. It is the belief of the staff and a large majority of parents that transitioning to a four-day school week will allow us to compete with other school districts.

- Days to Hours: Even though Osage is petitioning for a shortened school week, removing 14 days from the calendar, its drive to ensure that the students are receiving an adequate education remains of the utmost importance. Keeping instructional hours in mind, Osage would add 50 instructional minutes to the day for a total of 1098 hours per year. Attached is a breakdown of the Estimated Days to Hours Report and a school calendar for the 2025/26 school year.
- Improved Student Well-being: A four-day school week would allow students to have an extra day for rest, relaxation, and extracurricular activities. This could lead to improved physical and mental health, reduced stress, and enhanced overall well-being. As Osage is one of the smaller districts in the county it is often put on the backburner with our local counseling/therapy offices. Many times Osage students have not received their weekly, long-term therapies due to something going on at other schools taking precedence. Osage is asking for Mondays off to ensure that students have the opportunity to get into their pediatrician's offices, counselor/therapist's office, and other specialist's offices. Many doctor's offices are closed or have shortened office hours on Fridays. Mondays off would ensure that our students never miss their appointments due to conflicting issues at other schools.

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- Increased Academic Focus: With a condensed school week, students may be more focused during the four days they are in school, leading to greater productivity and engagement in the classroom. The school will be open from 7:30am to 3:30pm. This will give the students more time per day in the classroom than they are currently receiving. This will also help parents that struggle with getting their children to school due to conflicting schedules with work and their older student's school schedule that are not eligible for Osage's K-8 status.
 - Reduced Transportation Struggles: Osage has two bus routes, a large bus route and a small bus route. The small bus route does not require a CDL driver to operate, because of the passenger capacity size, but the large bus route does. Between January 5th and April 30th Osage was without a CDL bus driver, this resulted in the Superintendent having to drive the bus route every day. The lack of CDL drivers placed a strain on the district because the Superintendent had to drive the bus for all morning and afternoon routes, athletic events, field trips, and any other activities or events that had arisen throughout the year. There were multiple times that teachers had to take the school suburbans on multiple trips to pick up students because the Superintendent was in Oklahoma City for Superintendent Training. A shorter school week can reduce transportation costs and mitigate the strain experienced this year for the school district and parents, contributing to cost savings for everyone involved.
 - Increased parental involvement: The transition to a four-day week would allow Osage to hold events such as Parent/Teacher Conferences, Academic Fair, Book Fair, and Literacy Nights throughout the day and evening. Many of our parents work nights and are unable to attend these activities because they are at work during their time frames. Having events from 1pm-7pm on Mondays would allow working parents a variety of options to meet with teachers and staff.

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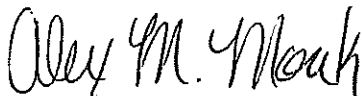
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- **Reduced Utility Usage:** Due to Osage not receiving much state funding it is imperative that every penny be utilized to the best of our ability. A four-day week would cut the water, electricity, and heating costs that are associated with the school usage.

We kindly request that you consider our proposal for a pilot program to implement a four-day school week at Osage Public School and evaluate its impact on student performance, attendance, and overall satisfaction. We are willing to collaborate with the state administration to address any concerns or challenges that may arise during this transition.

We believe that a four-day school week aligns with the best interests of our students and the broader school community. Parents and staff members were surveyed and the results were overly positive; you will find them attached to this letter. We kindly ask for your support and consideration in making this positive change a reality.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to a constructive dialogue and hope to see positive changes for our school in the near future.



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The "Altered School Day" survey was sent home with all 87 students and given to all 24 staff members. 58 of the surveys were returned; 14 staff members and 44 parents. The results are as follows.

1. A four (4) day school week with an extended school day, not to exceed an 8.5 hour day.

Yes= 43

No= 15

2. A five (5) day school week, with early release on Friday.

Yes= 31

No=12

3. A five (5) day school week with extended time each day, not to exceed a 7.5 hour day. Out earlier in May.

Yes=28

No=14

4. A four (4) day school week with an extended school day, not to exceed an 8.5 hour day. Second semester only.

Yes=12

No=30

5. A four (4) day school week with an extended school day, not to exceed an 8.5 hour day. First semester only.

Yes=10

No=32

2025-2026 Osage Public School

July

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SCHOOL EVENTS
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS
NO SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

August

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Prof. Dev. August 1st 4th-5th
Back to School Bash - August 5th 5pm-7pm
First Day of School - August 7th

September

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Cookies with Grandparents - September 9th 3pm
Parent/Teacher Conf - September 15th 1pm-7pm
Literacy Night - September 15th 1pm-7pm

October

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Mother-Son Kickball Game - October 15th 6pm
End of 1st Quarter - October 15th
Fall Break - October 16th & 17th
Red Ribbon Week - October 27th-31st

November

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Fall Carnival - November 3rd 5pm-7pm
Veterans Day Program - November 11th 8:30am
Thanksgiving Break - November 24th-28th

December

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Christmas Program - December 11th 6pm
End of 2nd Quarter - December 19th
End of 1st Semester - December 19th
Christmas Break - December 22nd-January 2nd

January

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Classess Resume - January 6th

February

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Daddy-Daughter Dance - February 12th 6pm-7pm
Parent Teacher Conf. February 16th 1pm-7pm

March

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Professional Development - March 2nd
Academic Fair - March 2nd 1pm-7pm
Dr. Suess Week - March 3rd-6th
Book Fair - March 3rd-6th
End of 3rd Quarter
Spring Break - March 16th-20th

April

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Spaghetti Dinner - April 17th 6pm-8pm

May

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Fun Day - May 8th
8th Grade Graduation - May 12th 6pm
K5 Promotion - May 13th 8:30am
Last Day of School - May 14th
End of 4th Quarter
End of 2nd Semester
Professional Development - May 15th

June

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

NOTES
*144 Instructional Days @ 480min/day - 40minutes/day for breakfast and lunch = 440 minutes/day or 1056 hrs/year
*5 PD Days @ 6hrs/day
*2 PT Conf. Days @ 6hrs/day
*TOTAL = 151 Days - 1096hrs.

Estimated Days to Hours Worksheet for 2025-26

7:30am - 3:30pm
20 min - Breakfast
20 min - Lunch

Oklahoma State Department of Education - Days to Hours Report

County Name
MAYESDistrict
OSAGESite
46C043105

FQSR Status

Report Date

2024

2025

Site (0/1)

Calendar Date Categories

	In Session Minutes	Meal Minutes	Instructional Minutes	Instructional Days	Total Hours
Parent-Teacher Conference Days & Hours (2 days and/or 12 hours maximum)	360	0	360	2	12
Actual/Regular School Year Days - Do not include parent-teacher conferences, additional minutes, partial, or virtual days	480	40	440	144	1056
Extended Days (adding additional hours or minutes to a regular day)	0	0	0	0	0
Partial Days (early release or late start days are included in Days Taught for ASR if longer than 120 minutes)	0	0	0	0	0
Full Virtual Days (for all students)	0	0	0	0	0
Additional Days Taught (make-up days not previously included in the academic calendar)	0	0	0	0	0
Professional Development Hours/Days	0	0	390	5	30

School Year

Meets 1080 Requirement:

Yes

Total Days Taught for ASR

Total Days for 165 Requirement

Grand Total Hours

2026

Meets 165 Requirement:

NO

144

151

1098