

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Jesse White

DATE: March 23, 2011

SUBJECT: Study of Four-Day School Week

In the near future, I plan to introduce a Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to investigate the potential benefits, as well as challenges, to public school districts of implementing a four-day school week schedule.

School districts in Pennsylvania and across the nation are increasingly considering the option of a four-day school week - primarily as an innovative potential cost-saving initiative. When successfully implemented, districts have been able to reduce the costs of heating, electricity and fuel - optimizing school district resources.

The committee will:

- Examine the effect of a four-day school week on utilities, transportation, food service, teacher and staff salaries, labor contracts, retirement and pension benefits, and relevant legal considerations.
- Study the advantages/disadvantages for the students, teachers, parents, administrators, staff, and the local community.
- Review of issues such as student fatigue, class disruptions and discipline as they relate to a longer school, as well as the scheduling of extra-curricular activities.
- Look at how a four-day school week affects at-risk students, and what type of school districts (suburban, urban or rural) may best benefit from this option.
- Examine the advantages and disadvantages of implementing a four-day school week schedule on a full-time basis versus on a limited-time basis.

I urge you to join me in supporting this resolution. If you would like to co-sponsor this resolution, please contact Eileen Cohick at 717-783-6437 or ecohick@pahouse.net.