

BDR 34-537 AB 225

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

AGENCY'S ESTIMATES

Date Prepared: March 6, 2017

Agency Submitting: White Pine School District

Items of Revenue or Expense, or Both	Fiscal Year 2016-17	Fiscal Year 2017-18	Fiscal Year 2018-19	Effect on Future Biennia
Substitute Teachers (Expense)		\$30,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
Fuel (busses) (Expense)		\$36,600	\$36,600	\$73,200
Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance (Expense)		\$67,000	\$67,000	\$134,000
Facility Costs (Expense)		\$25,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
Total	0	\$158,600	\$158,600	\$317,200

Explanation

(Use Additional Sheets of Attachments, if required)

Refer to attached

Name Paul Johnson

Title CFO

White Pine County School District

Bill Draft Request (BDR) 34-537

Fiscal Note

February 14, 2017

This bill would require that the District shift the start of school for all levels in order to avoid redundant bus routes that would create a financial burden and additional wear and tear on busses. Starting high school at 9:00 am would make it difficult for students to attend school for an entire day and manage extra-curricular activities especially for school districts with a 4-day school week. Currently athletic practices end at 8:00 pm. Athletic programs that share facilities must stagger their practices. For example, girls programs can practice immediately after school while boys must practice after the girls. Athletic fields and gymnasiums must be shared equally. Practices cannot start until the teacher work day ends at 4:30. Practices typically start at 5:00 pm in order to allow the teacher time to grab a snack and travel to practice. Delaying the start time of school would further delay practice times OR require that practice times be shortened which would affect the quality of the program. Having practice times *before* school would defeat the purpose of delaying the start of school until 9:00 am. In order to get students home at a reasonable hour, the District may have to return to a 5-day school week which would be costly and is further explained below.

Schools that operate under a 4-day model have longer days than traditional 5-day schools and districts. The reason many smaller districts transitioned to a 4-day week was to increase the teacher contact time for students and improve instruction. Because a large percentage of staff are also coaches or perform other extra duties after school. They frequently are required to be away from school on many Fridays to travel and compete. This means students that attend school on Friday typically have a substitute teacher instead of their regular teacher. By moving to a 4-day week and having athletic and other events on Fridays and Saturdays, teachers do not miss school because of their coaching or extra duty assignments and students do not miss direct instruction from their teacher. In addition, under the 5-day per week model, our District frequently had difficulty finding enough substitute teachers and had to rely on emergency subs to fill the vacancies. This further eroded the quality of instruction on Fridays. Under the 4-day per week model, teacher absences decreased which improved quality of instruction and has reduced the demand for substitute teachers. In addition to improved instruction, the District has saved approximately 20% of its substitute teacher costs. This has also allowed the District the opportunity to provide Friday school for students that require remediation. Currently, Friday schools are funded through grant programs. In years prior, volunteers have helped support Friday schools. This has been a tremendous benefit to many students that require additional attention. If the District has to return to a 5-day week because it has to delay the start of school until 9:00 am, then it is probable that substitute teachers costs and teacher absences will increase and the supplemental services provided on Fridays eliminated. We can reasonably expect substitute teacher costs to increase by at least 20% or approximately \$30,000 per year.

In addition to gaining labor efficiencies and improved instruction, the District only operates its fleet of busses 4 days per week instead of 5 days. This saves 20% of the mileage, wear and tear on vehicles as

well as fuel costs. This has reduced operating costs and increased life of our fleet of vehicles. Moving to a 5-day week would increase transportation costs by approximately \$103,600 per year and increase the rate at which the District should replace vehicles.

Below is a brief summary of the expected increased costs (and unfunded mandate) to transition back to a 5-day school week.

Substitute Teachers	\$30,000
Fuel	36,600
Repairs and Maintenance	67,000
Facility Utilities	<u>25,000</u>
Total	\$158,600

In addition to the increased costs, the teacher contact time would diminish that may affect quality of instruction. This will likely increase the percentage of students that require remediation or additional services currently afforded under the 4-day week. This will have a probable effect on the cost of instruction but is difficult to quantify at this time.

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