This is the VOA Special English Education Report.

As we said last week, American schools are looking for ways to save money on bus transportation because of high .....1..... prices. More children may have to walk, ...2.....their bikes or find other ways to get to school.

But, as another effect of the high prices, they may not have to go to school as .....3.....

Some schools, especially in rural areas, are changing to a four-day week. That means .....4.....days instead of the traditional Monday through Friday schedule.

Beginning in the.....5....., students in the Maccray school district in Minnesota will be in school Tuesday through Friday. Each school day will be sixty-five minutes longer.

Superintendent Greg Schmidt says the district expects to save about sixty-five thousand dollars a year in transportation costs. The district has about seven hundred students living in an area of nine hundred square kilometers.

State officials have approved the plan for three years. They may change their mind before then if .....6.....suffers.

In Custer, South Dakota, students have been going to school Monday through Thursday since nineteen ninety-five. Superintendent Tim Creal says the change has saved an estimated one million dollars over just the past eight years.

But he sees other benefits, too. Students get more instructional time. And activities that used to .....7.....with classes are now .....8.....on non-school days.

He says that in the future, the growth of online classes could make it possible to require even fewer days in school. High fuel prices are driving college students to take more online classes. And in some states, high school students can take them, too.

A four-day school week sounds like a great .....9.....for students and teachers. But working parents may have to pay for child .....10.....for that fifth day. In agricultural areas, though, it can mean an extra day of helping on the family ranch.

In New Mexico, the first school district changed to a four-day week in nineteen seventy-four because of the Arab oil .....11..... Now, seventeen out of eighty-nine districts use it.

The Lake Arthur School District has just one hundred sixty students. Lake Arthur used a four-day .....12.....for twelve years. But a few years ago it went back to five days.

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Michael Grossman heads the district. He says two studies there failed to show any real educational .....13.....using the four-day week. And he says not much instruction was taking place during the last hour of school, because teachers and students were too .....14.....

And that's the VOA Special English Education Report, written by Nancy Steinbach. I'm Steve Ember.

LIVEWORKSHEETS