



BENEFITS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ALLOCATION OF TIME AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL MARCH 2015

Provides for improved core time via longer and uninterrupted blocks of time for instruction.

- Students in grades one through three will be in their core block (literacy/social studies, math/science) for 175 more minutes per week. Students in grades four and five will be in their core block for 25 more minutes per week.
- At grades four and five, “pull-outs” are reduced during core instructional time by moving band/orchestra pull-outs to the specials block(s).
- Through the blocking of specials, transition time is reduced. Transition time is built into the schedule. Additionally, by moving Digital Media and Foreign Language for Elementary Students (FLES) to the specials block, specials are delivered more concurrently and efficiently.

Organizes and expands specials for students.

- Digital Media will become a consistent special class for students. This class will include technology and research and presentation skills, which will further support instruction in literacy, STEAM and problem-based learning.
- The amount of time for PE at grades four and five will increase from 20 minutes per day to 30 minutes per day until FLES is implemented at these grade levels.
- In the first two years of implementation, a world cultures class will be added to the specials rotation for grades four and five while the FLES Program rolls up annually until it is fully implemented at the start of the 2016-17 school year.

Provides for increased and more efficient Professional Learning Community (PLC) time for teachers.

- PLC time increases for teachers from 30 minutes per day to 45 minutes per day.
- PLC time allows our educators to collaborate with their peers to plan instruction, to review student data, to examine student work, to develop assessments, to review standards, and to discuss student outcomes on a daily basis.

- Specials (art, music, physical education, and digital media) and FLES are grouped in grade level bands so that two grade levels at a time attend specials for a block of time.
- Elementary specials teachers across the District will have common plan time. This provides an opportunity for specials teachers such as district-wide PE, art and music teachers to meet together during the school day.
- Elementary teachers would have 75 minutes of daily plan time within the school day. The plan time consists of one 30-minute block for personal plan and one 45-minute block for PLC as described above.

Other Benefits

- For the most part, the change in the elementary school day uses existing staff to carry out the new schedule, other than accelerating by one year, the hiring of two elementary foreign language teachers.
- Blocking the specials plan time adjacent to the lunch period provides greater access to gyms for lunch room set up/clean up.
- The length of the school day for kindergarten students will be extended to three hours, which supports recommendations made by Team 21 and CIT for increased time for kindergarten.

Sample Student Schedule According to the New Parameters

8:30	Student Day Begins
8:30-8:35	Announcements and Attendance
8:35-9:05	Specials
9:05-11:35	Core Instruction
11:45-12:30	Lunch/Recess
12:30-1:45	Core Instruction
1:45-2:30	Specials
2:30-3:30	Core Instruction
3:30	Dismissal

AM Kindergarten students will end their day at 11:30 a.m. and PM Kindergarten students will begin their day at 12:30 p.m.

revised 10/2/15