


Block Scheduling (4X4)

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What would you attempt to do if
you knew you could not fail?



Rationale for Block Scheduling

- ❑ My Voice Survey Results (School Climate) Concerns
- ❑ Declining NECAP Scores
- ❑ Declining SAT Scores
- ❑ Decreased rate of students attending college
- ❑ To increase student engagement in learning
- ❑ To prevent student failure
- ❑ Sense of Urgency – Time for revolutionary change



Potential Benefits of Block Scheduling

- ❑ Improves personalization/relationship building
- ❑ Well-crafted schedule facilitates the use of time, space and other resources
- ❑ Improves school climate – decreases discipline
- ❑ Provides solutions for a variety of problems related to delivering instruction
- ❑ Offers hope for changing the ways teachers work and students learn

Potential Benefits of Block Scheduling (continued)

- Emerges as a means to accomplish
 - include more “core” subjects
 - increase graduation requirements
 - implement more rigorous standards
 - reorganize the day
 - promote small learning communities

- Increases the time for engaging student activities and experimentation, i.e., problem based learning

Potential Benefits of Block Scheduling (continued)

- Increases percentage of students on the honor roll
- Decreases the percentage of students with multiple failures
- Increases in the number of students who successfully complete AP courses and receive a 3 or higher on the test
- Increases attendance

Potential Benefits of Block Scheduling (continued)

- ❑ Increases time for student collaboration
- ❑ Teachers are responsible for fewer students during the semester
- ❑ Teachers and students are responsible for fewer preparations on a daily basis
- ❑ Teachers have the potential of a longer planning period (individual and/or professional learning communities)

Potential Benefits of Block Scheduling (continued)

- ❑ Teachers have one or two class preparations
- ❑ Increases daily instructional time for in-depth study
- ❑ Decreases the need for students to repeat a course
- ❑ Decreases the number of classes in which students can have homework

Block Scheduling Considerations

- Professional development extremely important for implementation
 - effective classroom instructional strategies
 - cooperative learning structures
 - effective use of time and changing learning strategies during a period
 - others
- Teachers need to have opportunities to express needs to facilitate optimal implementation

Block Scheduling Considerations (continued)

- Need to evaluate additional supports leading up to and during implementation
- Need to develop pacing guides to assist teachers in delivering the curriculum
- Monitor classrooms to make sure every instructional minute is being used effectively
- Adjust graduation requirements

Block Scheduling Considerations (continued)

- Need to decrease the amount of teacher lecture time
- Monetary/Fiscal Implications
- Implications on students with disabilities
- Continuity of instruction issues: World Language, Music and Math
- Potential Space Needs
- Potential Staffing Needs



Next Steps

- We wish to continue to move forward with the goal of implementation by 2009-2010.
- Survey staff for professional development needs
- Plan for professional development during 2008-2009
- Develop plans to address considerations and other impediments to successful implementation