

Comparison of High School Schedule Options

March 2012

4J is working to develop a common schedule for all of its high schools.

A work group of about 30 teachers, administrators and counselors was formed to study different schedule options; determine what schedule would be optimal for learning, equitable for teachers and students, and financially sustainable for the district; and make a recommendation to the superintendent.

The group considered schedule options, chose three schedules to study in detail, and eventually narrowed its focus to two options: a 3x5 schedule (3 terms per year and 5 class periods per day) and a 4x4 schedule (4 terms per year and 4 class periods per day).

Schedules being considered:

No longer being considered:

	3x5 <i>3 terms per year 5 periods per day</i>	4x4 <i>4 terms per year 4 periods per day</i>	2x7 <i>2 terms per year 7 periods per day</i>
Number of terms	3	4	2
Periods in a day	5	4	7
Length of term	12 weeks	9 weeks	18 weeks
Length of period	70 min	90 min	50 min
Transitions per day (including lunch)	5 per day	4 per day	7 per day
Transitions per year	10 maximum	12 maximum	7 maximum
Credits per year	7.5 per year 30 in 4 years	8 per year 32 in 4 years	7 per year 28 in 4 years
Hours of instruction per credit (per bell schedule)	140 hours	135 hours	150 hours
Hours of instruction per credit (minus 4 min. per period for logistics)	132 hours	129 hours	138 hours
Weeks of instruction per credit	24 weeks	18 weeks	36 weeks
Average class size (assuming 1,000 students, 40 teachers)	31.25 students	33.33 students	35 students
Required FTE/Cost (assuming 1,000 students, 30 students per class)	41.60 FTE \$3,810,560	44.44 FTE \$4,070,704	46.66 FTE \$4,274,056
Teacher prep time per day	70 min	90 min	100 min
Periods teachers teach per day	4	3	5
Number of students per teacher	120 per day 120–360 per year	90 per day 90–360 per year	150 per day 150–300 per year
Number of final grading periods	3 periods	4 periods	2 periods
Number of total grading periods	6 periods	8 periods	8 periods
0.5 credit opportunities possible for a teacher to offer annually	12 opportunities	12 opportunities	10 opportunities

