

High School Schedule Information

Ephrata Area School District
School Board Meeting
January 23, 2012





Agenda

- Rationale
- Current schedule
- Issues with current schedule
- 6 period schedule overview
- Advantages of 6 period schedule
- Challenges of 6 period schedule
- Recommendation
- Questions



Rationale

1. Increase Efficiency

- A. Shrinking fiscal resources from the state
- B. Continual focus of getting the most from our investment in all resources

2. Increased Expectations

- A. Competitive Graduates
 - 1) College and post graduate education, scholarships and awards
 - 2) Advanced placement and admittance into academic programs within universities
- B. District Accountability
 - 1) Higher levels of proficiency and increased rigor due to Keystone Exams
 - 2) New methods of evaluating and reporting high school effectiveness



Current Schedule

- Student day from 7:30-2:25 (7 periods of 47 minutes).
- Optional Academic Coaching Time (ACT) occurs from 2:25-3:10 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with activity buses on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- The typical high school teacher schedule is to teach 5 periods (totaling 3 hours and 55 minutes of instruction), supervise one duty period, have one period of planning and be available during ACT.
- A student may have up to 8 different teachers/subjects in a week.
- Graduation requirements enable students to have an average of 1.25 periods of study hall per day.
- Students typically earn 6.5 credits per year due to selecting an average of one semester study hall each year graduating with 26 credits.



Weaknesses of Current Schedule

1. Relatively short instructional periods
2. Inefficient use of instructional staff
3. Too many student instructional transitions
4. Relatively low requirements of credits compared to availability
5. Relatively high numbers of students in study halls instead of instructional settings
6. No advisory support period



Proposed 6 Period Schedule

Of the versions of the 6 period schedule that were previously considered – **we have pulled from consideration any schedule option that requires students to attend courses (Music, PE, or other electives) during Academic Coaching Time (ACT).**



Proposed 6 Period Schedule

	Student 1	Student 2	Student 3	Student 4
1	56	56	56	56
2	56	56	56	56
3	56	56	56	86
A	Lunch	56	Lunch	
B	SH/Adv 26		56	Lunch
C	56	Lunch	56	SH/Adv 26
4		SH/Adv 26	SH/Adv 26	86
5	56	56	56	
6	56	56	56	56
ACT				



Advantages of 6 Period Schedule

1. Increased instructional periods to 56 minutes (19%)
2. Increased effective use of instructional staff (19%)
3. Decreased instructional transitions for students
4. Provides an increase in the required instructional hours from 3,243 to 3,528 (approximately 9%)
5. Incorporates a shortened daily study hall for all students
6. Provides multiple options for advisory activities



Challenge of 6 Period Schedule

The 6 period schedule reduces the availability of electives from 21 semester electives in the current schedule to 16 in the six period schedule. The effect of this reduction for some students will be that they may not be able to take all of the electives that they desire.

(The current typical graduating senior has taken 17 semester electives)



Recommendation

- In recognition of the need to provide more information and dialogue with the community on the (a) increase in academic rigor from the state, (b) shrinking state fiscal support, (c) weaknesses of the current schedule, and (d) advantages of an alternate schedule – it is the recommendation of administration to suspend the implementation of the 6 period schedule for the 2012-2013 school year.
- Administration would like to work on minor adjustments to improve the 7 period schedule for the 2012-2013 school year and continue to explore options for an alternate schedule for the 2013-2014 school year.



Questions and comments from the EASD School Board