

Approval of High School Schedule For 2011-2012

January 11, 2011

SUMMARY:

This item requests approval of changing the current DISD high school bell schedule to a modified block for the 2011-2012 and subsequent school years.

BOARD GOAL:

- I. Vision ... In pursuit of excellence, the district will:**
 - a. develop a culture where learning is our first priority
 - b. remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus
- II. Teaching & Learning... In pursuit of excellence, the district will:**
 - a. stay abreast of and incorporate best practices into teaching, learning and leadership
- III. Climate... In pursuit of excellence, the district will:**
 - a. motivate and prepare students to embrace their full responsibilities as active citizens of their community, nation, and world

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

The DISD Board of Trustees discussed this item as a workshop topic on December 14, 2010.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- ❖ As DISD moves to a Professional Learning Community (PLC) framework at each of the secondary campuses, it is necessary to review current practice to determine modifications to current instructional delivery methods. These methods could include teaching strategies, curriculum redesign, student support systems, efficient allocation of resources, etc.
- ❖ The impact of the 4X4 course requirements has impacted student participation in state elective courses
- ❖ Denton continues to grow approximately 4% annually, class sizes continue to increase and the class schedule becomes more inflexible. One of the first items for research is the current A/B Block Schedule.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

Early communication to students, parents, faculty and staff.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

A move to the modified block schedule will allow DISD to capture additional teaching units by elimination double block classes, and reallocating personnel to the class schedule. Future consideration as to the number of classes student should take could also have a positive impact on the budget.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

Passage will allow students ample time to select classes for the 2011-2012 school year and create space in student schedules for additional course offerings.

Passage will provide teachers and campus administrators' ample opportunity to create a master schedule best meeting student needs.

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

No public comment was received

ALTERNATIVES:

No alternative actions are proposed at this time

OTHER COMMENTS:

The schedule should

- Provide time within the school day for teacher collaboration about student learning.
- Create a systematic support system within the school day for struggling students
- Be designed to reduce class sizes in an era of potential financial shortfalls
- Provide incentives for students to successfully matriculate through the system
- Maintain flexibility to meet individual student needs

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends adoption of a modified block schedule for DISD high schools beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Jamie Wilson, Deputy Superintendent

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____