
Teaching Learning and Equity Department/Program Board Summary Report

This report is designed for Department or Program Leaders to provide a concise, high-level overview of their area's status, activities, and future plans to the School Board.

Report Identification

Field	Information
Department/Program Name:	Secondary
Report Title:	Update on MS and HS schedule
Report Leader:	Jen Larva
Date Submitted:	November 21, 2025
Date of Board Meeting:	December 2, 2025



Summary Report

I. Program Objectives & Goals

The core objective is to have a schedule that supports student and teacher needs and allows for intervention, student agency, and belonging.

II. Key Actions & Activities

Action 1: High School Schedule Committee Work (Last Year)

- A new committee was formed last year to propose changes to the high school secondary schedule.
- The committee discussed various options and recommended altering the schedule on two days a week.
- The proposed alteration would shorten the regular periods and add a 35-minute "Connection" period on each of those two days.
- The recommendation was shared with DFT leadership and Senior Leaders.
- No changes were made for the 25-26 school year.
- **Data Point:** Students and families have expressed displeasure with the current 7-period day due to the loss of the "WIN" (What I Need) period from the previous 6-period day.

Action 2: Student Survey Administration (October/November 2025)

- A student survey regarding the 7-period day was administered, asking questions about the choices students are making.
 - Only 356 students took the survey.
 - Students who don't have 7 classes reported it was often due to lack of space in electives.
 - Many students are not taking 7 periods because the homework load is too much.
 - Some students have reported to counselors that they don't need 7 classes and would choose to have a study hall. They appreciate the flexibility of not having a 7th class.
- Students taking the survey were asked about the types of electives they would like to see offered.
 - **Medical/Health Sciences:** Many students requested more medical field courses, health-science based courses, EMT/EMR training, and forensic science.
 - **Computer Science and Technology:** Interest was high for computer science, coding/programming, cybersecurity, digital animation, and engineering/Solidworks.
 - **Arts and Music:** Respondents frequently mentioned more art, advanced art, digital art, music, music theory, music production, choir, photography, and theater.
 - **Practical Life Skills and Trades:** Students desired classes useful for real life, including cooking/culinary, sewing/knitting, welding, construction/woodworking, drivers ed., and financial/complex topics (insurance, investing).

- **Languages and Social Studies:** Requests included more world languages (Mandarin, French, Italian, Latin, Polish, Russian, Portuguese), Latin American history, Global Religions/Philosophy, and Anthropology.

Action 3: Site-Level Opportunity Day Schedules

- Sites developed with their department teams a schedule to address the current monthly Opportunity Days, building in time for students to engage with clubs as well as receive teacher support.
 - **East High School Principal Input:**
 - East has chosen to shorten regular class periods on PAWS days to allow for dedicated time for all students and staff to meet the needs of opportunity days. Currently this format allows two 40 minute PAWS opportunity periods during those days.
 - Department Chairs and administrators are unanimous in the opinion that this is a more manageable structure throughout the day. We continue to meet with POV students to build understanding there are many factors to consider.
 - **Denfeld High School Principal Input:**
 - We follow the regular 7 period schedule. Students sign up for clubs and activities.
 - Teachers complete a spreadsheet for any student who is currently failing during the quarter. Information gathered includes conferencing with the student, communication with the parent or guardian, and the conditions offered to help the student earn a passing grade.
 - The priority for scheduling students is academic with secondary options for clubs and activities.

Action 4: Middle School Schedule Review

- The MS schedule committee met last spring.
- Staff survey data was reviewed regarding the current middle school schedule.
- The committee decided that no changes to the schedule would be considered until the 2027-28 school year.

Action 5: Middle School Model Presentation

- Four committee members were accepted as presenters to the national AMLE conference to share our journey in adopting a middle school model.
- The model centers on four identified cornerstones: Advisory, Enrichment, Intervention, and Teaming.
- This work led to the modified block schedule, which includes Advisory and AREA (Academic, Relearning, Enrichment, and Activity) time embedded twice per week with "skinny" and "Block" days.

- Brian Kazmierchek, Kristin Paschen, Morgan Costley and Jen Larva presented during a breakout session at the conference in Indianapolis in November.

III. Outcomes & Results

High School Recommendation: The committee's recommendation for the two-day "Connection" period was made to the District's Federation of Teachers (DFT) president and Senior Leaders. No action was taken on the recommendation. The committee has not met this year due to the lack of contractual flexibility that would allow for a new schedule option. We will continue to consult as contract negotiations commence for the new contract period.

- **Impact:** Students currently have limited access to teachers for completing work, making up tests, or receiving interventions, and cannot engage in as many clubs as desired.

HS Student Survey: The results of the student survey were reviewed with counselors and principals at a meeting on November 21.

Middle School Outcome: Based on the staff survey data reviewed last spring, the committee determined that the Middle School would continue with the current schedule for a full three years before considering another schedule change.

IV. Next Steps

Next Step 1: Reconvene committee as contract negotiations commence.

- Any alterations to the 7 period day must be done in collaboration with bargaining units prior to or concurrently with negotiations.

Next Step 2: MS Committee Check-in (Mid-Year)

- The Middle School committee will meet mid-year to determine if staff should be surveyed again this spring to address any current concerns.

V. Future Focus Area: Addressing Secondary Teacher Recruitment and Student Loss

- Analyze the crisis of having qualified teachers to teach College in the Schools (CITS) courses.
- Consider an alternative schedule that allows for an "office day" for teachers/students that better aligns with a college schedule.
- Address the loss of students to Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO).