

## Secondary Schedule Task Force Update

Under the project leadership of Jen Larva, Director of Secondary Teaching Learning and Equity and Anna Cawcutt, Secondary Curriculum Coordinator, the Secondary Scheduling Task Force has reconvened to evaluate and make recommendations to the school board for changes to the secondary schedules. These changes will be necessary to ensure implementation of the 2018 MN Arts Standards requirements and schedules that best meet the needs of students in Duluth Public Schools.

### Historical Perspective:

In 2017, a Secondary Scheduling Task force was established to respond to the needs of students in Duluth Public Schools by looking at a variety of scheduling options at the secondary level, while responding to community feedback and how the current schedule impacted district goal improvement.

The [Secondary Schedule Task Force](#) presentation was made to the school board (February 2018) with these recommendations:

- After reviewing 35 schedule options two to five were selected that meet these criteria:
  - Surveyed desires of the community
  - Ensure alignment to Key District Strategies (MTSS, PLCs, Safe and Welcoming Environment)
  - Other considerations were taken into account

No decision was made to move forward with the secondary scheduling changes.

### Present Update:

Due to the changes in the 2018 MN Art Standards Middle School students:

- must be offered/have access to at least three and required to meet benchmarks in at least two Arts areas **every year**
- All benchmarks in an area must be met in a year in order to fulfill this requirement

These changes require the committee to evaluate the current schedule and implement changes.

Differences in 2008 vs 2018 Art Standards:

- Currently, students are required to have arts instruction every year (per compulsory education law); under the 2008 standards, within the 6-8 grade band, they must meet the standards/benchmarks in two of the arts areas at some point.
- Because the 2018 arts standards/benchmarks are grade-level, that leads to the requirement that students meet the standards/benchmarks in two arts areas each year for students K-8. The initial implementation year for the 2018 arts standards is 2023-24.

The Secondary Schedule Task Force, using the guidelines set by the committee in 2016-17, is moving forward to review the recommendations and options for changing the middle school and potentially high school schedules for the implementation in the 23-24 school year.

The goals of the committee are:

- To collaboratively work within the Labor Management process as we revisit the current structure of the secondary schedule and explore future possibilities.
- To implement the 2018 MN Arts Standards and requirements while supporting teachers and maintaining or increasing opportunities for students by the 2023-2024 school year.
- In order to fully implement the changes in the Secondary Schedule it is anticipated that a decision will be made by the committee by August, 2022 with presentation to the Committee of the Whole School board by August 4, 2022.
- Design a communication plan to keep all stakeholders informed of the process.