

9.24.24 Board Workshop

Graduation Requirements





TABLE OF *Contents*



TOPIC 1: Background & Process

TOPIC 2: P.E. Programming

TOPIC 3: Schedule

TOPIC 4: Student & Family Voice

TOPIC 5: Flexibility (= Choice)

TOPIC 6: Opportunities



Background & Process

Background: Legislation Changes

WHY

Social Studies: EHS 8 semester credits
MDE 7 semester credits

- Changes (to sequence of classes) prompted an additional semester requirement at EHS
- [Policy](#) adjusted spring of 2024
(impact on current 9th grade class)


Background: Legislation Changes

WHY

Personal Finance: EHS 1 semester credit
MDE 1 semester credit

- Addition of Personal Finance
- This class will be added with board approval following new course processes starting in November 2024 and ending in January 2025.
- This addition has not yet been adjusted in policy.

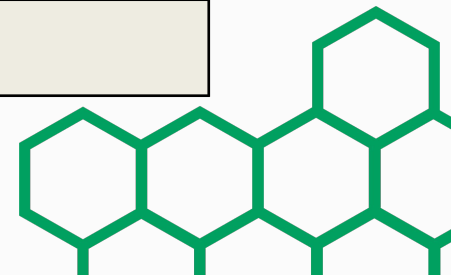
EHS Graduation Credits: Class of 2028 - CURRENTLY reflected in policy




Mathematics	6	Intermediate Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2
Science	6	Physical Earth Science, Chemistry, and Biology
Language Arts/English	8	Refer to the English Section in the Course Catalog
Physical Education (Wellness)	2	Personal Wellness, and one additional semester credit in grades 9-12
Social Studies	8	Geography, World History, US History, Government and Economics
Arts	2	Coursework in visual arts, music, theater, dance, or media
Health	1	Health
Required Credits	33	
Elective Credits	10	
Total Credits Needed for Diploma	43	

**All numbers reflect semester credits*

**Green denotes where EHS requires more than MDE*



EHS Graduation Credits: Class of 2028 - NOT currently reflected in policy



Mathematics	6	Intermediate Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2
Science	6	Physical Earth Science, Chemistry, and Biology
Language Arts/English	8	Refer to the English Section in the Course Catalog
Physical Education (Wellness)	2	Personal Wellness, and one additional semester credit in grades 9-12
Social Studies	8	Geography, World History, US History, Government and Economics
Arts	2	Coursework in visual arts, music, theater, dance, or media
Health	1	Health
Personal Finance	1	Will be added following the 2024-25 new course processes
Required Credits	34	
Elective Credits	10	<i>*This number cannot be reduced & still meet MDE requirements.</i>
Total Credits Needed for Diploma	44	

**All numbers reflect semester credits*

**Green denotes where EHS requires more than MDE*

**Yellow highlights direct changes without any adjustments to the green*



Preliminary Input Gathering

EHS Area Leaders: I.R.O.D. Decision Making Model

**Information shared in initial slides*

Reactions

- Half of our students are currently graduating with 50 semester credits. This equates to only 2 semesters of taking 7 classes a day. **Leaving 6 elective spaces** open beyond the 44 required for graduation.
- Research continues to show a critical need to support the **whole student**, emphasizing a need for Physical Education/Wellness and Health. This need directly aligns with the **Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate**, as well as Strategy C of our 2020-2030 Edina Strategic Plan.
- The **Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate** also aligns directly with ensuring students have the **choice to explore** new content areas as “motivated life long learners who understand their personal interests and passions.” It is important that students have room in their secondary experience to do this.

EHS
Area
Leaders
I.R.O.D.



Preliminary Input Gathering

EHS Area Leaders: I.R.O.D. Decision Making Model

**Information shared in initial slides*

Reactions Continued

- EHS has **several core subject areas** where many students are already **taking more than is required**. For example, in Math and Science, many students take 4 years and a full 8 credits.
- EHS is in **alignment** with our surrounding districts with current credit requirements. Minnetonka, EP and Wayzata require 2 semester credits of PE while Orono, Mahtomedi, and Mounds View require 1 semester credit of PE.
- In 2023-24 **32%** of Edina students took **both a music and world language** for all 4 years of high school. These fulfill elective choices. There were 0 students who took an arts class (outside of music) and world language for all 4 years. There were 4 students who took Computer Science and World Language for all 4 years.



Options:

1. Increase Total Required Semester Credits
2. Reduce P.E. Required Semester Credits

** Of the total options discussed, three were presented in the 8.20.24 Board Report. The option to further reduce the number of total required semester electives is not viable because it does not meet MDE requirements for electives.*



Option 1: pros

Increase Total Required Semester Credits

- Will maintain positive support for student mental health and wellness with no PE reduction.
- Adds more instructional hours to a student day which supports current student developmental and social needs for structure.
- Will correlate to increased engagement and rigor with less students in unstructured time.



Option 1: cons

Increase Total Required Semester Credits

- Limits flexibility to take additional math, science, or electives in a 6 period day. Noting that even minimally utilizing the 7 period day allows for more flexibility and opportunity for all electives.
- The limiting of electives may narrow the opportunity to explore passions.
- For a small percentage of our students, those that find it challenging to meet current requirements, this could be difficult to attain.
- Thus, there could be an impact on graduation rates. (We believe our system can proactively adjust to this.)



Option 2: pros

Reduce P.E. Required Semester Credits

- Will maintain high graduation rates.
- Allows more room for credit recovery within a school year.
- Total number of semester credits for graduation remains consistent.
- Have to sign up for 48 credits and you need 43 to graduate. Still allows 5 opportunities within a 6 period day and 13 within a 7 period day to explore other electives.



Option 2: cons

Reduce P.E. Required Semester Credits

- Will be a negative impact on student mental health and wellness and it is critical to support mental health in our changing world.
- Does not align with the Edina Vision, Mission, Core Beliefs, Strategic Priorities, and Well-Rounded Edina Graduate.
- Could directly impact Unified programming.
- There are many popular creative classes that students are actively and highly engaged in that may need to be eliminated and/or students would not experience them through choice.



Option 2: cons continued

Reduce P.E. Required Credits

- Research shows activity during the day improves learning.
- PE and Wellness classes are where some kids find their sense of belonging
- There are so many unique and flexible ways to take PE at EHS and they may become limited if there is a reduction.



Area Leaders Recommendation

- Add 1 semester credit for Personal Finance
- Leave 2 semester credits for Physical Education
- Raise requirements to 44 semester credits for graduation.

Board Discussion

Key Themes

- Flexibility is important
- Student & parent/family perspective is important
- Elective choice is important
- Why are students making the choice to fulfill the PE credit outside of the traditional schedule?
- Consider equity
- What other flexible choices are there?

Next Steps

- Explore reduction of required P.E. elective credit.
- Gather student voice & perspective.
- Gather parent/family voice & perspective.
- Analyze student & parent perspective to deeply analyze why summer choices are taken.
- Explore flexible options within the schedule. Can Personal Finance be added in a way that ensures flexibility?



2.

Current Reality:

**Edina Physical
Education
Programming**



Edina High School: Physical Education

Department Purpose:

The purpose of the Physical Education and Wellness Program in Edina Public Schools is **to foster the physical, emotional, and social well-being of students** by providing a comprehensive and inclusive curriculum that **emphasizes lifelong fitness, healthy lifestyle choices, and personal development**. Our program aims to **equip students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to lead active and balanced lives, enhance their physical capabilities, and cultivate positive self-esteem**.



Edina High School: Physical Education

Department Overview:

EHS offers 10 courses to meet the needs of Each and Every student. Through the courses and the various pathways of taking the courses, every student can thrive!

The required Personal Wellness course is a prerequisite to all other wellness courses. EHS has 34 standards embedded in the P.E. requirements.



Edina High School P.E. Classes

Personal Wellness is required for all.

- 21 standards embedded
- Prerequisite class

AND

One Additional Elective is required for all.

- 13 standards (the same embedded in each)

Girls Only PE
Wellness & Sport
Strength & Conditioning
Online Guided Wellness

Unified PE
Basketball Theory
Soccer Theory
Lifetime Activities



Edina High School Flexible P.E. Classes

Personal Wellness is required for all.

- Summer Blended
- Edina Virtual Pathway

AND

One Additional Elective is required for all.

- 13 standards (the same embedded in each)

EVP Strength and Conditioning

EVP Blended Guided Wellness





3.

**Current Reality:
Schedule**





Student with Summer Personal Wellness



Period	S1 Course	S2 Course
1	Physical Earth Science	Physical Earth Science
2	Spanish II	Spanish II
3	Quiet St. Prep/Summer PW	Geometry
4	English 9: Survey	Quiet Student Prep
5	9th Grade Choir	9th Grade Choir
6	Geometry	English 9: Survey
7	AP Human Geography 9	AP Human Geography 9

SCHEDULE *Sample*



Student without Summer Personal Wellness



Period	S1 Course	S2 Course
1	Physical Earth Science	Physical Earth Science
2	Personal Wellness	Geometry
3	Geometry	American Sign Language I
4	Cultural Geography	Quiet Student Prep
5	Quiet Student Prep	Cultural Geography
6	American Sign Language I	Digital Photo I
7	English 9: Survey	English 9: Survey

SCHEDULE *Sample*



Senior Schedule with Online PW & Summer Health



Period	S1 Course	S2 Course
1	Creative Writing	Economics
2	Teacher Assistant	Civil Engineering
3	Environmental Studies	Student Prep
4	Algebra II	Algebra II
5	Personal Finance	World Literature
6	Choir	Choir
7	Student Prep	Comparative Anatomy

SCHEDULE *Sample*



Senior Schedule without Online or Summer PW

Period	S1 Course	S2 Course
1	AP Human Geography	AP Physics C Mechanics
2	AP Physics C Mechanics	AP English Lit & Comp
3	Intro to Literature CIS	Wellness Girls Only PE
4	Concert Band	Concert Band
5	PSEO	PSEO
6	PSEO	PSEO
7	PSEO	PSEO



SCHEDULE *Sample*



Senior Schedule with Summer PW



Period	S1 Course	S2 Course
1	AP Calculus BC	AP Calculus BC
2	Basketball Theory	Forensics
3	Intro to Literature CIS	French Culture Modern World
4	Student Prep	AP English Lit & Comp
5	French Culture Modern World	AP Economics
6	Choir	Choir
7	AP Economics	Student Prep

SCHEDULE *Sample*

Schedules: random sampling of 24

Schedules Grouping 1:

8 schedule: 6 classes, 1 prep, heavy electives

6 schedules: 4 or 5 classes, prep, peer tutor, TA, PSEO, & online throughout, heavy electives

2 schedules: PSEO

Schedules Grouping 2:

1 schedule: 7 classes

1 schedule: 6 classes, heavy content electives

6 schedules: 6 classes, music & language, heavy AP classes



4.

**Parent &
Student Voice**



Family Feedback

389 respondents

Perspectives on P.E. Programming

78%

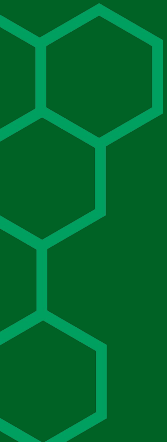
Current
Programming
Meeting Goals

57%

Drop in
Elective
Requirement
= Still Meet
Goals

53%

Reduction =
Decrease in
Flexible
Classes = Still
Meet Goals



Perspectives on Online/Summer Options: Synthesis of Thought Exchange Data

A significant number of responses highlighted the benefits of online and summer physical education options. These alternatives:

- provide flexibility
- allow students to manage their schedules better
- allow students take additional academic classes during the school year

Participants appreciated the ability to log physical activities and receive credit, especially for those involved in sports or other physical activities.

Overall, the perception is positive, with many valuing the convenience and adaptability these options offer.

Perspectives on Flexible Options: Synthesis of Thought Exchange Data

Many participants expressed that students who are actively involved in sports should not be required to take additional physical education classes:

- a lot of time and effort is already spent on sports teams
- redundant

Some also mentioned the need for more flexible options to accommodate their sports schedules.

Overall, the perception is that the current requirements do not adequately consider the physical commitments of student-athletes.

Perspectives on Class Choice Options: Synthesis of Thought Exchange Data

Participants appreciated the variety of physical education and wellness classes offered, which cater to different interests and fitness levels.

- inclusivity
- relevance
- fun

Overall, the variety in the curriculum is seen as a strength, providing students with multiple pathways to stay active and healthy

Reduce versus Maintain Current Requirements:

Synthesis of Thought Exchange Data

Side A

Reduce PE Requirements

Many respondents suggest reducing the number of required PE classes, arguing that students involved in sports or other physical activities outside of school should receive credit for their efforts. They believe that mandatory PE classes can be redundant for these students and that their time could be better spent on other academic or elective courses.

Common ground

Flexible PE Options

Both sides agree on the need for flexible PE options that can accommodate different student needs and interests. This includes offering online or summer PE classes, allowing sports participation to count towards PE credits, and providing a variety of class options that focus on different aspects of health and wellness, such as nutrition, mental health, and lifelong fitness activities.

Side B

Maintain/Increase PE Requirements

Other respondents advocate for maintaining or even increasing the PE requirements, emphasizing the importance of physical education for all students. They argue that PE classes promote lifelong health and wellness habits, which are crucial given the current health challenges faced by younger generations. Some also suggest integrating wellness education into the broader curriculum.

Student Feedback

377 respondents

Perspectives on P.E. Programming

32%

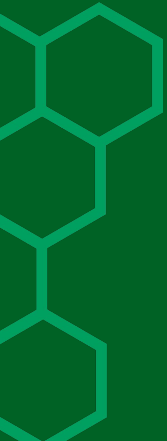
Taken a
Summer
Blended P.E.
Credit

22%

Taken an
Edina Virtual
Pathway P.E.
Credit

11%

Taken & Paid
for a P.E.
Credit
Outside
Edina



Why Summer Blended, EVP and/or Other?:

Synthesis of Thought Exchange Data

Convenience: ability to choose activity to engage in and an easier option

Personal Comfort: practical solution to avoid being sweaty and other aspects of things not liked in gym

Schedule Flexibility: free up schedule to take more electives, harder classes or student prep

Credit Completion: efficient way to get mandatory credits done

Activity Preference: choice aligns with personal preferences and allows for efficiencies

Flexibility versus Discomfort:

Synthesis of Thought Exchange Data

Side A

Free Up Schedule

Many students chose the summer gym option to free up their schedules during the school year. This allowed them to take more electives, focus on harder classes, or have a student prep period for additional study time. The flexibility of completing a required credit over the summer was a significant advantage for these students.

Common ground

Flexibility and Convenience

Both groups appreciated the flexibility and convenience that the summer gym option provided. Whether it was to free up their schedule for other classes or to avoid the discomfort of in-school gym, the ability to complete a required credit on their own terms was a common benefit. This shared value highlights the importance of adaptable and student-friendly options in education.

Side B

Avoid In-School Gym

A number of students opted for the summer gym to avoid the discomfort and inconvenience of taking gym during the school year. Reasons included not wanting to be sweaty during school hours, finding in-person gym classes unproductive, and preferring to exercise in a more comfortable environment. This option provided them with a more pleasant and manageable way to fulfill their gym credit requirement.



Analysis Across All

Data Points:

- *Thought Exchange Parent Survey*
- *Thought Exchange Student Survey*
- *Schedule Analysis*
- *PLC Focused Conversation*

**Convenience
Schedule Management
Activity Redundancy
Importance of Wellness**

FLEXIBILITY = Choice



5.



**FLEXIBILITY =
Choice**

Flexibility Currently in the EHS System

Current Physical Education Programming: data consistently communicates appreciation for current flexibility and choice

Schedules: random schedule pulls are showing that many students are leaving room in their schedule for at least **2** or more open classes to fill with an open block OR choice electives. Most have very little credit bearing classes left to fill by their senior year.

Edina Virtual Pathway: free up schedule to take more electives, AP classes and/or student prep

Flexibility Currently in the EHS System

Course Credit for Learning: provide credit for learning that occurs in other schools, alternative learning sites, postsecondary enrollment options, advanced enrichment programs, out-of-school experiences, work-based learning, and other education

Elective Credit Bearing Activities: examples Student Council and Yearbook

P.E. Reduction = Less Flexibility

Enrollment would decrease: survey data shows 56% of students would not take P.E. electives beyond one if requirement is decreased

Fewer flexible choices for students: with 56% indicating they would not take an additional credit if reduced to one required, elective choices would become limited

Unified P.E. would be difficult to offer: need peer partners to run, if not enough sign-up it could lead to a cancellation and a change in a large numbers of student schedules with a high volume of unintended negative consequences



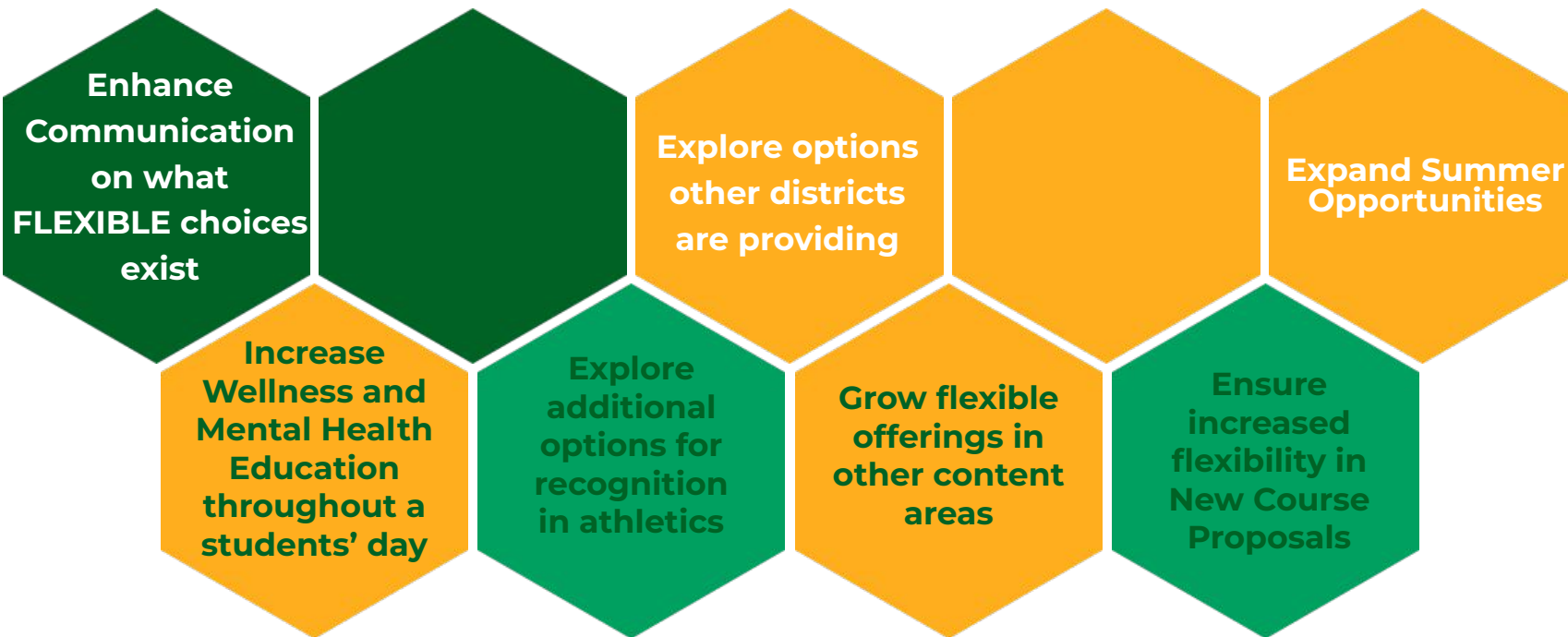
e.



OPPORTUNITIES



Increase Flexibility: Possibilities to Explore





REACTIONS?

Edina Public Schools

