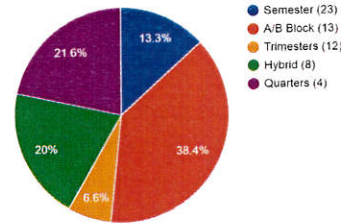


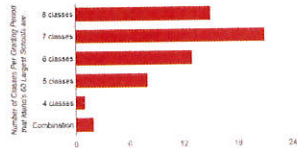
Idaho High School Instructional Schedules

For the Sixty Largest Schools

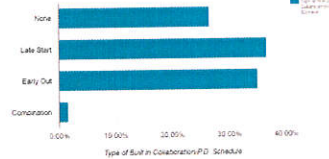
Types of Instructional Schedules Used



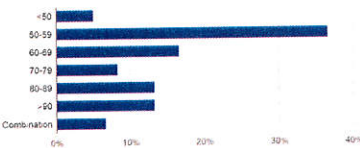
Number of Classes Per Grading Period that Idaho's 60 Largest Schools are using



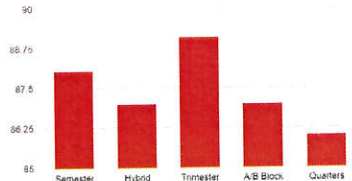
Percent of Idaho's 60 Largest Schools' Bell Schedules for Teacher Collaboration/P.D.



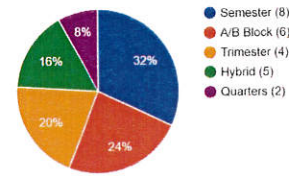
Minutes Per Period Percentages



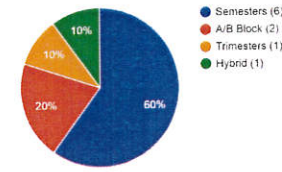
Average Idaho Graduation Rate Per Instructional Schedule



Top 25 SAT Schools' Instructional Schedules



Top 10 SAT Schools' Instructional Schedules



Introduction

Instructional schedules are an important topic for educational leaders across the state of Idaho. My goal is to provide data that will help districts make informed decisions. For this sample, I focused on the largest sixty schools in Idaho. I gathered information through an online survey for superintendents, school district websites, and phone calls. I analyzed SAT scores, Go On rates, and graduation rates, and ranked each category based on the most recent data available. I also gathered information on the length of classes and the number of periods each day. I analyzed all the large schools as a whole, and then two sub-groups made up of the top twenty-five and the top ten in each category. This poster is a snapshot of what I discovered.

Sample Questions

What is the most widely used instructional schedule?

- Semesters, followed by A-B, and then trimesters.

What is the correlation between instructional schedules and the following measures?

- Graduation Rate
 - The majority of schools with the highest graduation rates have trimesters.
- Go On Rate
 - The majority of the schools with the top go on rates have semesters.
- SAT Scores
 - Only one of the top ten SAT scoring schools uses trimesters.

Do schools that have high SAT scores build collaboration into their schedules?

- The top ten SAT scoring schools all have built-in collaboration.

Observations & Conclusions

Hands down, schools with semester based schedules are sending students on to college at a higher rate than schools with other types of schedules. Yes, there are many variables at play, but this data here suggests a trend. Perhaps it's the similarity to college that match dual credits and ease of taking college credits in this type of instructional schedule that's making the difference. Or it could be a combination of factors, including the daily and year-round contact core teachers have with students with semesters.

On the other hand, trimesters have a positive correlation with graduation rates. It could be a result of the flexible nature of the trimester system, fewer classes, and less time for issues like attendance to cause a loss of credit. However, student achievement may suffer compared to semesters.

There are several creative schedules out there in different combinations of hybrid schedules. It appears many of those schedules might be working for schools. They are neither at the bottom nor the top but find themselves in the middle of the three main categories of SAT scores, graduation rate, and Go On statistics.

When it comes to collaboration for teachers within an instructional system, it appears that most schools are doing it weekly and finding success. All of the top schools in this research sample are finding value in doing it each week. Perhaps it's the professional development that is working into the weekly schedule. Perhaps it's reviewing technology help with other teachers, lesson plan collaboration, or effective time together as a school. I think it's likely a reflection of the impact of proactive systems leadership in several areas. It would be interesting to analyze more data in other categories such as PSAT's, PSAT's, and other scores to look for connections. Perhaps failure rates would be another data point to analyze along with socio-economic and demographics of a school with each category.

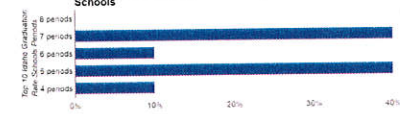
The amount of time per class period and the number of class periods was analyzed as well. I found it interesting that among all sixty schools, it was split right down the middle between those schools that were over an hour and those under an hour. While the numbers were even, periods under an hour were prevalent among higher achieving schools. The A/B block schedule schools were not in the top ten in graduation rates or SAT scores.

As schools evaluate instructional schedules, it's essential to identify goals. If the objective is flexibility and improving graduation rates, then trimesters may be the best option. If college connection and student achievement are high priorities, then semesters may be best. My hope is that this data is instructive as school districts evaluate their scheduling options.

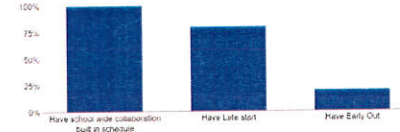
To Whom It May Concern: Educational Leadership Program Spring 2017



Periods Per Grading Cycle for the Top 10 Graduation Rate Schools



Use for Weekly Collaboration Schedule for the Top 10 SAT Scoring Schools



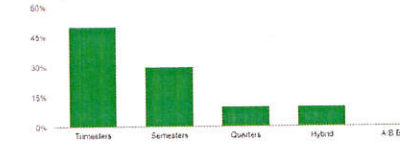
Instructional Schedules for the Schools with the Top 10 Go On Rates



Instructional Schedules for the Schools with the Top 25 Go On Rates



Top 10 Idaho Graduation Rate Schools' Instructional Schedules



Top 25 Idaho Graduation Rate Schools' Instructional Schedules

