



High School Schedule Research Team

# **HIGH SCHOOL MASTER SCHEDULE DISCUSSION**

November 2010

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Mark Baker, Choir Director, DHS  
Michelle Brians, Orchestra Director, GHS  
Vicky Christenson, Director of Secondary Curriculum  
Barbara Fischer, Principal, GHS  
Joel Hays, Science Teacher, RHS  
Cindy Hess, Social Studies Teacher, RHS  
Donna Jones, Dean of Students, GHS  
Renee Koontz, Associate Principal, DHS  
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Stephanie Nicewarner, Math Teacher, DHS  
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Angela Ricks, Associate Principal, RHS  
Carla Ruge, Assistant Dean, ATC  
Eddie Russell, Band Director, RHS  
Steve Shade, World Language Teacher, GHS  
Shanna Stovall, ELA Teacher, GHS  
Jamie Wilson, Deputy Superintendent

# TIMELINE

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- ✘ October 5 Organization and Planning
- ✘ October 18 ALT Informational Meeting
- ✘ October 26 Determine Site  
Visits/Develop Questions
- ✘ November 1-5 Site Visits
- ✘ November 9 Review site visit information
- ✘ November 12 Prepare faculty talking points
- ✘ November 15-19 Faculty presentation and  
feedback
- ✘ Nov 29-Dec 3 Review feedback from faculty
- ✘ December 7 Finalize Board Report
- ✘ December 14 Board workshop
- ✘ January 11 Recommendation to DISD  
Trustees

# WHY CHANGE WHAT'S NOT BROKEN?

- ✘ 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.

# IN REVIEWING THE SCHEDULE...

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## 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
- + Other....

# THINGS TO CONSIDER...

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- ✘ Best interest of the STUDENT
- ✘ Teacher collaboration time
- ✘ Teacher class size
- ✘ School wide system of student support
- ✘ Flexibility in schedule
- ✘ Student Incentives
- ✘ Cost
- ✘ Other...

# DISD CURRENT SCHEDULE

## A Day

Period 1A  
90 minutes - every other day

Period 2A  
90 minutes - every other day

Period 3A  
90 minutes - every other day

Period 4A  
90 minutes - every other day

## B Day

Period 1B  
90 minutes – every other day

Period 2B  
90 minutes – every other day

Period 3B  
90 minutes – every other day

Period 4B  
90 minutes – every other day

# DISD CURRENT SCHEDULE

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- ✘ Most students take 8 classes
  - + Release time provided for students enrolled in AP, Dual Credit, and cooperative work programs
- ✘ Most Teachers teach 6 of 8
  - + Members of the academic leadership team currently teach 5 of 8
  - + Athletics is considered a course, and is included in the 6 of 8 assignment
- ✘ Classes that are double blocked take 25% of the student schedule



# TALKING POINTS...

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- ✘ Budget constraints will necessitate staffing/scheduling changes.
- ✘ As enrollment increases, every effort is being made to keep class sizes manageable.
- ✘ Teachers on the committee have visited extensively with teachers in other districts (including evaluation of over 20 schedules).
- ✘ Every effort has been made to be cognizant of all departments and special groups.

## SEVEN PERIOD DAY

- × Burleson
- × Granbury
- × Northwest
- × Little Elm
- × McKinney
- × Plano
- × CFBISD

## BLOCK(A/B OR ACCELERATED)

- × Colleyville  
Heritage
- × Frisco
- × Mansfield
- × Southlake

## MODIFIED BLOCK

- Allen
- Keller
- Lake Dallas
- HEB\*
- Weatherford

**THERE IS NO “PERFECT” SCHEDULE**

# BASIC SET-UP

**A Days**

**B Days**

Skinny block / Daily 60 mins

Alternate Days 90 mins

Alternate Days 90 mins

Alternate Days 90 mins

Alternate Days 90 mins

Alternate Days 90 mins

Alternate Days 90 mins

Skinny block / Daily 60 mins

# SAMPLE SCHEDULE – KELLER/ALLEN ISD

A Days	B Days
<p style="text-align: center;">Period 1 Meets Daily – 60 minutes (Core Teacher Common Planning) (may not apply to DISD)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Period 2A 90 minutes - every other day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Period 2B 90 minutes – every other day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Period 3A 90 minutes - every other day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Period 3B 90 minutes – every other day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Period 4A 90 minutes - every other day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Period 4B 90 minutes – every other day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Period 5 Meets Daily – 60 minutes</p>	

# KELLER ISD

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## FIRST SKINNY PERIOD PRACTICES:

- ✘ Primarily for athletics and selected fine arts (band, choir, orchestra, etc)
- ✘ Credit-recovery, various organizational meetings, and tutorials
- ✘ Teacher tutorials or departmental meetings
- ✘ Substitute teachers on campus that day monitor students in commons
- ✘ Few select non-academic classes offered
- ✘ Most teachers have first period planning and one other conference period (from the remaining 7 blocks/periods)

# ALLEN ISD

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- ✘ Provided efficient use of facilities due to student growth and enrollment
- ✘ Freshmen are required to take 8 classes, sophomores and juniors 7 classes, seniors are required to take 6 classes
- ✘ Allows teacher to have PLC time during the school day
- ✘ Allows flexible start and end time to school day for students

# SAMPLE SCHEDULE – WEATHERFORD ISD

<b>Monday – all classes</b> Approx 45 minutes each	<b>Tuesday – Thursday</b> A Days	<b>Wednesday – Friday</b> B Days
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b> 60 minutes	
<b>2A</b> <b>3A</b>	<b>2A</b> 90 minutes	<b>2B</b> 90 minutes
<b>2B</b> <b>3B</b>	<b>3A</b> 90 minutes	<b>3B</b> 90 minutes
<b>4A</b> <b>4B</b>	<b>4A</b> 90 minutes	<b>4B</b> 90 minutes
<b>5</b>	<b>5</b> 60 minutes	

# WEATHERFORD ISD

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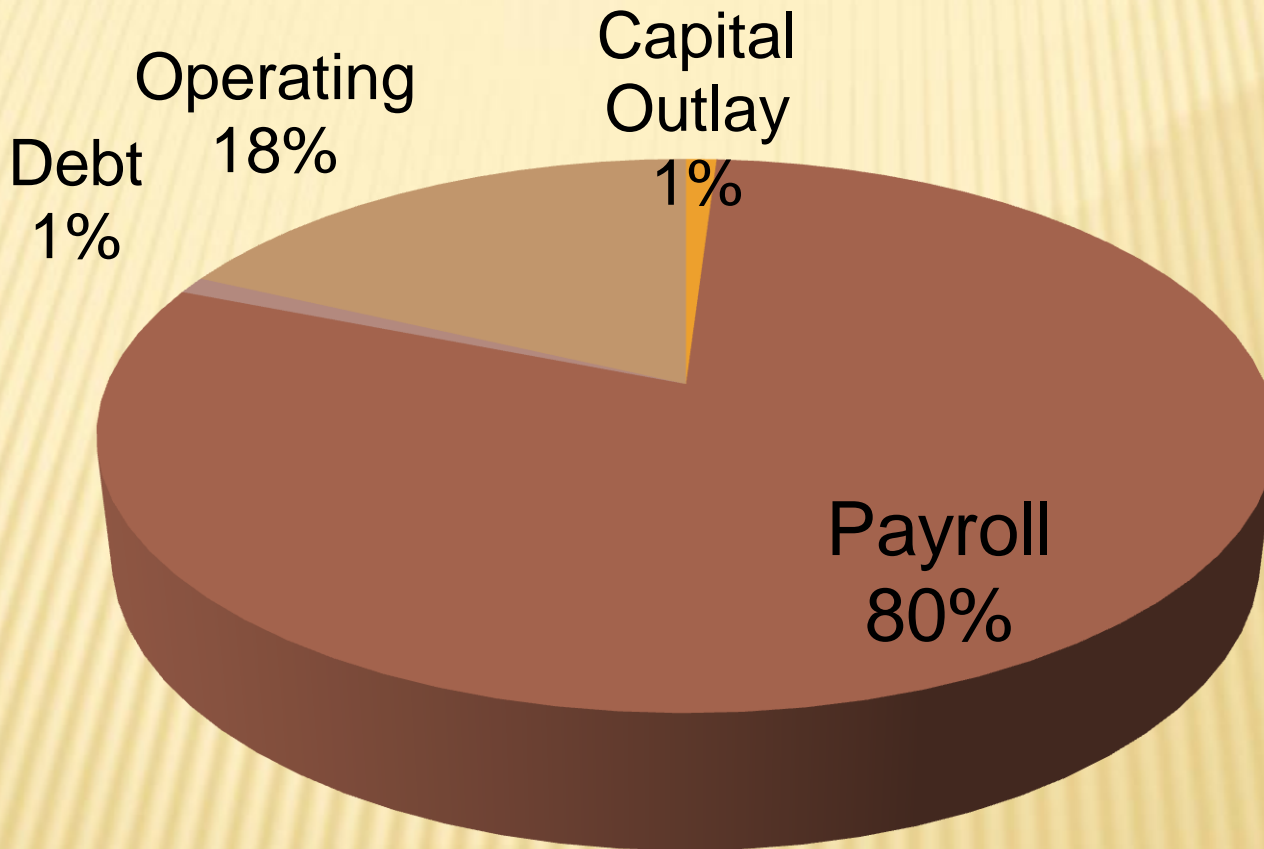
- ✘ Teachers have a PLC conference and a planning period and teach 6 of 8 classes.
- ✘ All athletics are 1<sup>st</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> block.
- ✘ Teachers are guaranteed to see their classes and meet with their students 3 times per week.
- ✘ A and B days are consistent for the entire year.
- ✘ All assemblies and pep rallies are scheduled on Fridays on an alternate bell schedule.
- ✘ Mondays, when teachers see all students, allows for time including their Engage, setting the stage for the week, and other activities.



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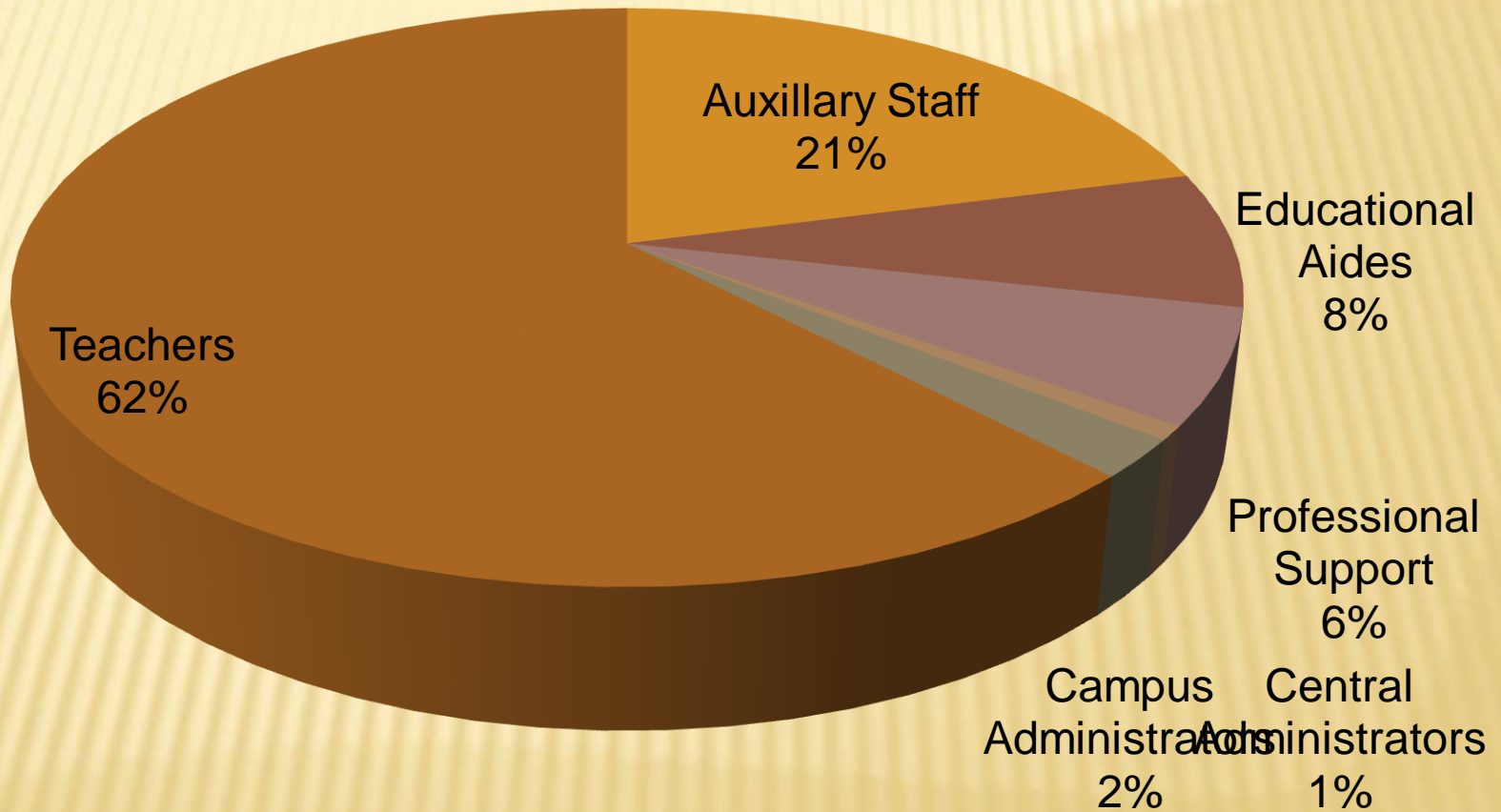
How does the  
schedule impact  
the budget?

# WHERE THE MONEY GOES....



Source: TEA

# WHERE THE PAYROLL MONEY GOES



Source: TEA

# SECONDARY TEACHERS

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- ✘ Scheduled by courses rather than by grades
- ✘ All teachers are used to provide conference time for each other.
- ✘ A student takes more courses than the average teacher instructs

# SECONDARY MATHEMATICAL MODEL

- ✘ Consider a high school with 2000 students and 100 teachers
- ✘ **Apparent Class Size**

2000 students = 20.0 Students per class

100 teachers (if every teacher teaches every period)

# SECONDARY MATHEMATICAL MODEL

- × Real Class Size depends on schedule
  - + Denton ISD high schools use an A/B block
    - × Students take 4 classes per day
    - × Teachers teach 3 classes per day

# SECONDARY MATHEMATICAL MODEL (REAL CLASS SIZE)

$$\frac{\text{Courses Taken} \times \text{Students}}{\text{Courses Taught} \times \text{Teachers}} = \text{Class Size}$$

$$\frac{\text{Courses (4)} \times \text{Students (2000)}}{\text{Courses Taught (3)} \times \text{Teachers (100)}} = 26.6$$

# SECONDARY MATHEMATICAL MODEL

- ✘ 2000 students and 100 Teachers (in each case)

<b>Schedule Model</b>	<b>Class Size</b>
4/3	26.6
6/5	24.0
7/6	23.3
7/5	28



# SECONDARY MATHEMATICAL MODEL

Teachers Needed for the same class size  
(26.6)

<b>Schedule Model</b>	<b>Class Size</b>	<b>Teachers</b>
4/3	26.6	100
6/5	26.6	90
7/6	26.6	87
7/5	26.6	105
8/7	26.6	85

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✘ Move to a modified block schedule for the 2011-12 school year allowing each campus to capture units from double blocked classes

## **Need Decision by January 11, 2011**

- ✘ Any added local graduation requirements are an added budgetary consideration
- ✘ The addition of the 4x4 requirement necessitates review and study of current practice of student release.

Math (4)

Science (4)

Fine Arts (1)

Social Studies (4)

English (4)

Communications (.5)

World Language (2)

PE (1)

Electives (5.5)

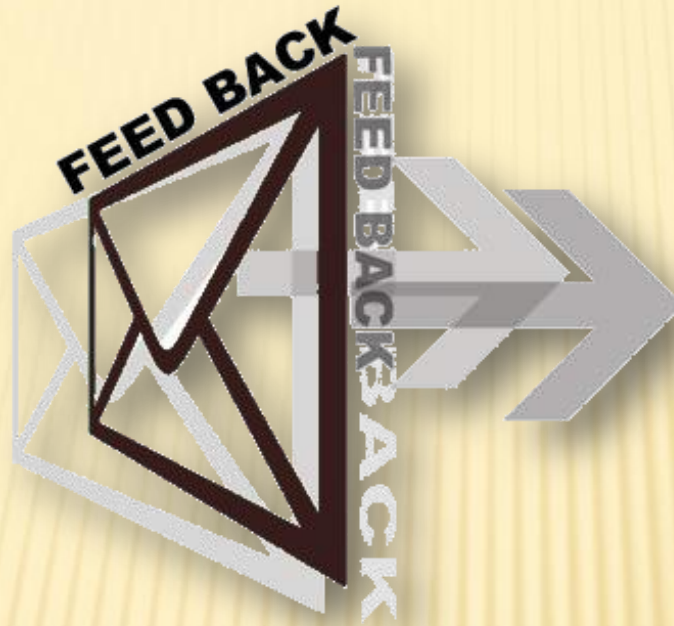
**Total: 26 Credits**

- ✘ Consider (study) requiring all freshman and sophomores to take 8 classes, consider less or virtual course requirements for juniors and/or seniors based on credits, attendance, behavior, etc.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

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- ✘ Depending on future budgetary constraints, DISD could:
  - + Require students to take only 7 classes each year. Teachers teaching 6
  - + Increase teaching load to 7 of 8 classes. While maintaining 8 classes for all students
  - + Increase the number of students in each class
  - + Other?



**WRAP IT UP...**

Feedback, Questions, Comments