

MODIFIED BLOCK SCHEDULE

What the heck is a Modified Block Schedule?

A Modified Block Schedule combines the flexibility of a block schedule with the possible bonus of “protected” time for early hour classes. Block Scheduling usually gives the teacher two block classes (90 minutes)/week and may or may not include another 45 minute class in the week as well. The Modified Block Schedule has 225 minutes of instruction/week but uses this time more efficiently. The Modified Block Schedule allows for subject pairings and teachers could negotiate the time within the block with their pair teacher based upon the needs of each class each week.

What would it look like for a student?

Example 1: Modified Block Schedule (1 protected elective)

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Instructional Time/Week:
7:30 - 8:25	Block 0	Protected Elective (AP1)	Protected Elective (AP1)	Protected Elective (AP1)	Protected Elective (AP1)	AP Make-Up Day if Holiday occurs	Protected Elective (AP) 255
8:30 - 10:00	Block 1	Math/Science	Spanish/Character Ed.	7:30 - 8:55 Socials 9:00 - 10:00	English/Socials	Math	Science 225 Math 225 Socials 225 English 225 Spanish 225
		Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Character Ed 100
10:15 - 11:45	Block 2	English	Elective Block B	English 10:15 - 11:00 Character Ed. 11:05 - 12:00	Science	English/Socials	Elective Block A 180 Elective Block B 180 Advisory/Conference 25
		Lunch	Lunch	Advisory or Conference 12:05 - 12:30	Lunch	Lunch	
12:15 - 1:45	Block 3	Spanish	Math/Science	Lunch 12:30 - 1:00 Science 1:00 - 1:45	Elective Block A	Spanish	
1:50 - 3:20	Block 4	Elective Block A	Socials	Math 1:50 - 2:35	Elective Block B		

Example 2: Modified Block Schedule (2 protected electives)

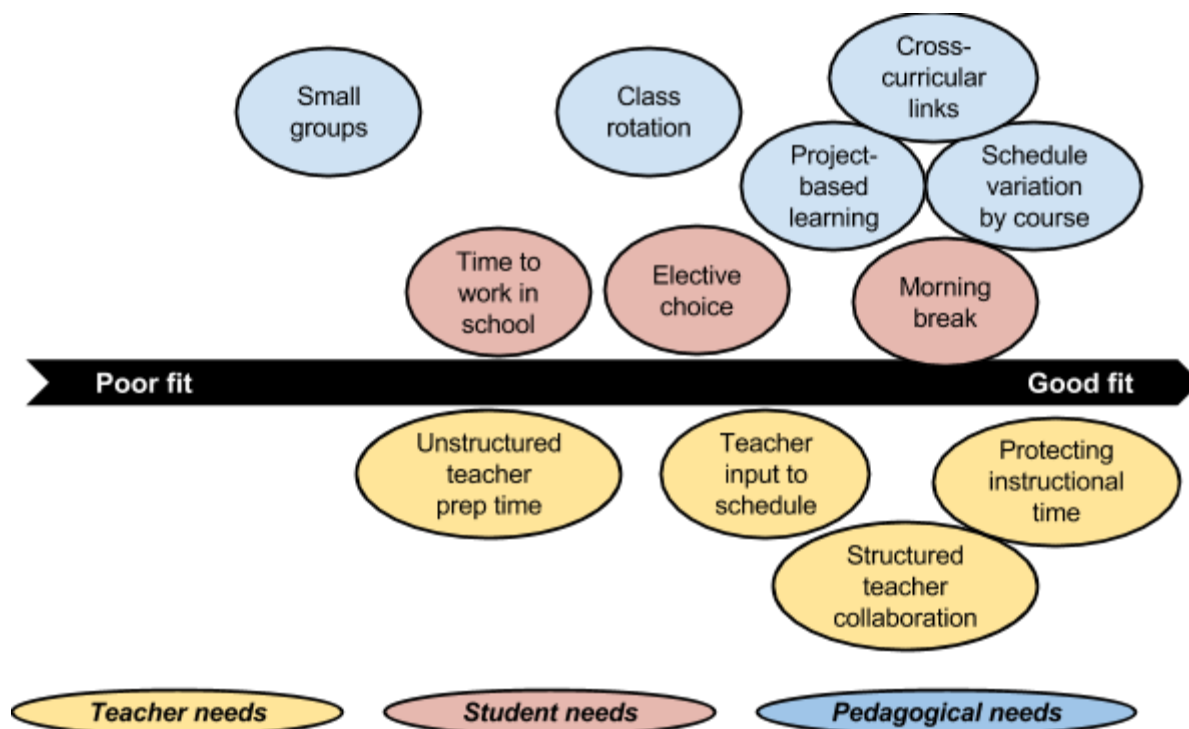
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Instructional Time/Week:
7:30 - 8:55	Block 0	Protected Elective (AP1)	Protected Elective (AP2)	Protected Elective (AP1)	Protected Elective (AP2)	Protected Elective (AP1)	Protected Elective (AP1) 225
						Protected Elective (AP2)	Protected Elective (AP2) 225
9:00 - 10:30	Block 1	Math/Science	Spanish/Character Ed.	Socials 9:00 - 9:45	English/Socials	Math/Science	Science 225
				Break			
		Break	Break	English 10:00 - 10:45	Break	Break	Socials 225
10:45 - 12:15	Block 2	English	Elective Block B	Character Ed. 10:50 - 11:35	Science	English/Socials	English 225
				Advisory or Conference 11:40 - 12:10			
		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch 12:10 - 12:40	Lunch	Lunch	Character Ed 90
12:45 - 2:15	Block 3	Spanish	Math	Science 12:40 - 1:25	Elective Block A	Spanish	Elective Block A 180
				Math 1:30 - 2:15			
2:20 - 3:50	Block 4	Elective Block A	Socials		Elective Block B		Advisory/Conference 30

What would it look like for a teacher?

- Core teachers would see their students for 225 minutes of instruction/week.
- Most teachers would have two 90 minute block classes upto 2 days per week with one 45 minute class or one 90 minute block can be shared with a pair teacher/week based upon each course's needs.
- The shared 90 minute block could also be used for cross-curricular work.
- Planning periods would consist of 90 minute blocks (or more).
- There's a possibility of some type of Student Responsibility Block or study time built into the schedule in Elective Block A or B.

Does the Modified Block Schedule meet our needs?

The Scheduling PLC identified 12 top needs from our recent teacher survey. Here's how we think this scheduling model stacks up:



Got it. Other pros and cons?

Advantages

- Block schedules allow for projects, labs or larger exams to be administered.
- Longer class times allow for in depth work on any particular topic and flexibility of class scheduling.
- Protected AP Elective times, give the teacher more planning time during the regular school day.
- More electives could be offered to the student, or the student could build in a study period in one of the Elective A or B choices.
- Planning periods are longer and cross-curricular planning is easier to organize.
- Holidays or other interruptions can be mitigated through proper planning.

Disadvantages

- Block schedulings gives you less days of contact time with students during any one week.
- Negotiating class times with pair teachers may not always satisfy each teachers needs.
- AP teachers may have to begin the school day earlier to ensure protected instructional time.
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