

Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Mercer Island School District (MISD)
and
Mercer Island Education Association, Certificated (MIEA)
Regarding
Islander Middle School (IMS) Gator Time

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is an agreement between MISD and MIEA for a model of tiered support where Tier 1, Response to Intervention (“RTI”), is implemented with students, and staff is intentionally provided a designated time, described more fully herein, to collaborate during the school day.

The current IMS schedule provides for a six-period day. This schedule does not afford IMS teachers time during the school day to meet and collaborate in a Professional Learning Community (“PLC”) format. This schedule also does not provide an opportunity to “flexibly” group students for short-term interventions.

To create opportunities for teacher teams to meet collaboratively in a PLC-format concurrent to students receiving support for organization/study skills and relationship building, IMS staff and administrators have agreed to create a thirty-minute period during the school day. This thirty-minute period will be termed “Gator Time.” Gator Time lesson plans and resources will be provided to staff. Normal classroom procedures of grading will not be required for Gator Time.

It is understood and agreed that students supervised during Gator Time will not count toward the 150 student maximum outlined in Article IV, §14 of the Certificated CBA. No Gator Time section may exceed 34 students.

In recognition of the increased responsibility that will accompany Gator Time, all IMS certificated staff responsible for a Gator Time period, will receive a stipend of \$500 for their increased student load and responsibility. In the event Gator Time responsibilities are split between two staff members, the stipend will be prorated accordingly.

Special Education Services Considerations

To meet the need of creating a short-term solution so student IEP minutes can be met, the IMS Special Education Services staff agree to provide services during the time set aside for “Gator Time” for the remainder of the 22/23 school year. The following considerations are included within this plan:

- Maintain legal requirements for meeting IEP minutes for each student;
- Continue to provide an opportunity for SpEd and ELD students to enroll in more general education classes;
- Do not involve any revisions to IEPs;
- Provide additional planning time per week for all SpEd staff members; and
- Add additional classified support, where requested.

Jing An - ELD Gator Time

The ELD Gator Time shall be limited to 15 students or fewer. Additional ELD Gator Time paraeducator support shall be provided so there are two adults in the room supporting students every day (e.g., teacher and 1 paraeducator or 2 paraeducators while the teacher is in PLC). As ELD Gator Time shall be used to support students’ general education learning, there is no expectation of additional lesson planning for this period.

Amanda Collins - Inclusive Classes

Amanda shall receive an additional 120 planning minutes per week. The time and days of this planning shall be mutually agreed upon between Amanda and the teachers to whom she provides inclusive instruction; said days and times may change each week to accommodate instructional needs. There shall be no change in Gator Time classes for Amanda.

Maddie Tessier/Heather Tamblyn

Starting 3rd trimester, Maddie shall receive an additional 120 planning minutes per week during 3rd period. Heather and Maddie will co-teach 3rd period and work together to determine the additional planning time for each staff member.

There shall be no change to Heather's Gator Time classes. Starting 3rd trimester, Heather’s 4th and 5th period lab classes shall be combined into 5th period and Heather’s prep will move to 4th period. Heather and Maddie will co-teach 3rd period and work together to determine the additional planning time for each staff member. This shall furnish an additional 120 planning minutes per week for each teacher.

Lori Grata - Gator Time

Lori’s SEL Gator Time student class-size shall continue to be reduced, where possible, and shall be limited to 13 students or fewer. Additional paraeducator support, that is not assigned to specific students, shall be provided so there are two adults in the room supporting students every day (e.g., teacher and 1 paraeducator or 2 paraeducators while the teacher is in PLC).

PLC attendance during Gator Time shall be determined by the teachers.

This MOU will be effective during the 2022-23 school year only, and will sunset on the final school day of the 2022-23 school year.

Dr. Frederick D. Rundle

Apr 18, 2023



Apr 23, 2023

Dr. Fred Rundle
Superintendent

Date

Sally Loeser
MIEA President

Date