

Instruction Subcommittee Notes

6-25-2020

The purpose of the meeting was to review the current schedules for elementary, middle and high schools.

1. Elementary School:

- AM/PM model 4 days a week. Students would attend school Monday through Thursday for either a morning or an afternoon session and complete the rest of the day with distance learning. In addition, the 5th day would be 100% distance learning.
- There is a long break in the middle to provide for teacher lunches and cleaning. This could be modified to increase instructional time based on the guidelines from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.
- Students would eat lunch when they arrive home, or before they come to school.
- There would be grab and go lunches available for students on free and reduced lunches.
- Provision would be made for some special education and English Learners to have more time at school based on need.

2. Middle School:

- AM/PM model 4 days a week. Students would attend school Monday through Thursday for either a morning or an afternoon session and complete the rest of the day with distance learning. In addition, the 5th day would be 100% distance learning.
- Students attend all 6 classes in a block schedule model, periods 1-3 on Monday and Tuesday; and, periods 4-6 on Wednesday or Thursday.

3. High School:

- AM/PM model 4 days a week. Students would attend school Monday through Thursday for either a morning or an afternoon session and complete the rest of the day with distance learning. In addition, the 5th day would be 100% distance learning.
- Students would attend 3 classes for 10 weeks at a time, periods 1-3 for the first 10 weeks and periods 4-6 for the second 10 weeks.

4. High School – late addition (not recommended by the Subcommittee):

- 2 full days at school, 3 full days distance learning.
- Students would attend all 6 of their classes 2x per week

Students would eat lunch on campus and be expected to follow physical distancing requirements.

The discussion about the elementary program was about child care. Regardless of the model selected, hybrid options create a demand for more child care. The district is working with other agencies to see if we can have a coordinated response to this need.

The middle school schedule was also accepted as is by the Instruction Subcommittee, although there was some consideration that the 3 class at a time model would work well at middle school as well. There were also some concerns that a 3 class model would be more difficult for special education students. In the 6 model each class would meet in person twice per week, whereas in the 3 class model they would meet 4 times a week, but for half of the semester. **The total time is the same for both models.**

The discussion around the high school model was about 3 classes versus the 6 at middle school. While either model could work at each level, the high school model allows the students to focus on 3 courses at a time and possibly take a 0 period, period 7 career technical education or college class, and be involved in a sport. It also creates time for specialty groups, like choir to meet. High schools have far more extra- curricular activities than middle schools.

The late addition high school model came about because one of the high school representatives surveyed his high school teachers and about 50% were interested in a 2 day in school/3 days distance learning model.

The concerns of the group were the following:

1. It would create problems for some parents in terms of aligning their families on the same schedule for child care purposes
2. It would have half of the students on campus for lunch 4 days in a row and would be difficult for the students to maintain appropriate physical distancing. The crowd of students each day would increase the risk to students and staff. It would pull the custodians to the lunch area instead of high traffic/high touch areas like restrooms and doors and drinking fountains.
3. As long as the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidelines allow students to be at school, the group would like to maximize that time.

Although the group did not recommend the late addition to the schedules, it was important to include for consideration because it does represent the desires of some teachers and parents.

The group also had a limited discussion about curriculum.

The current plan is to expand the ILA for secondary (grades 7-12) for those families who are interested in 100% distance learning. The curriculum used by the ILA is APEX. There was concern about the cost of the program, but the price has been reduced in order to account for the current pandemic. The current cost is \$45,000 for 300 licenses, but the district will be able to obtain licenses for all secondary students in the district for 2020-2021 for \$86,000.

For elementary students whose families are interested in starting them in 100% distance learning, the program will be based on the core curriculum. We will continue to investigate additional programs that may better serve the needs of special education students.