

Block Scheduling

In the 4x4 semester plan the school day is divided into four instructional blocks of 87 minutes each (with a 26 minute lunch during the third block), and the school year is divided into two semesters. During the first semester, students are enrolled in four courses which meet daily. Instruction, which previously had been stretched over the course of an entire 180-day school year, is now compressed into one semester of an 87 minute block. At the end of the fall semester, students receive credit for each course successfully completed and enroll in four additional courses for the spring semester. Teachers instruct three of the 87-minute blocks and use the fourth block for planning.

Some courses (AP, PE/Music) may continue to meet every day all year.

The following is a sample 4x4 Block schedule at Ewing High School.

BLOCK TIME DURATION					
BLOCK I	7:45-9:12				87 Minutes
HOMEROOM	9:12-9:22				10 Minutes
BLOCK II	9:27-10:54				87 Minutes
<i>All lunches are 26 minutes long.</i>					
<i>Hall transit time is five minutes</i>					
BLOCK III	Lunch A 10:59-11:25	Class	Class	Class	87 Minutes of Class
	Class	Lunch B 11:30-11:56	Class	Class	83 Minutes of Class
	Class	Class	Lunch C 12:01-12:27	Class	83 Minutes of Class
	Class	Class	Class	Lunch D 12:32-12:58	87 Minutes of Class
BLOCK IV	1:03-2:30				87 Minutes

The goals of block scheduling:

- allow students more time to learn without lowering standards and enable students to repeat failed courses in time to graduate with their peers;
- provide longer class periods so that teachers have more time to use a variety of techniques which encourage student involvement;
- reduce the number of class changes during the school day;
- reduce the number of students per teacher each semester;

- reduce the number of teacher preparations; and reduce the number of classes per student each semester.

Block scheduling has the following advantages for students:

- it allows students to earn forty credits each year;
- students concentrate on only four classes at one time;
- and it allows students to repeat failed classes without attending summer school.