

# Key Points Regarding Moving to a Seven Period Day

1. Student preparation for post secondary success will not be compromised. The College Board recommends that courses be taught over an entire year instead of by semester.
  - AP courses are designed to be taught over the course of a year
  - Private, college prep high schools are mostly on a six, seven or eight period day
  - Additional time will be given for Math 1 and 2 with support
  - Math study found that scores were better for students on a 50-minute year long schedule over a 90 minute class for 90 days
  - Continuous enrollment in a subject is optimal
  - The district did study several models, none of the others seemed appropriate for various reasons like state testing and the career academy
2. Reduction in staffing needs at the high schools will help the district bridge the anticipated budget gap for FY13.
  - Anticipating a \$5,000,000 budget deficit
  - Reduction of 14-20 teachers will save the district between \$980,000 and \$1,400,000
  - Future reductions in staffing are likely as plans are made for FY13
  - Possible furlough days
  - Possible tax increase
  - High School change is just part of the reduction
3. Teachers will meet over the next several months to develop a plan for homework and tests. The workload for teachers and students should be spread out over the course of a year.
  - With students taking 7 classes, homework and testing schedules vetted with teachers.
  - Most students will have 4-5 academics, similar to what they had in middle school
  - Over half of the high schools in the state are on a similar model
4. Additional textbooks will be purchased through E-SPLOST to meet the demands of all students.
  - Textbook Costs of around \$150,000 -\$200,000 a year
  - Although textbooks are not used as much as they once were, accommodations will need to be made for students with heavy book issues
5. Instructional supervisors and counselors are working with student schedules to make sure that all requirements are met.
  - All of the state requirements for students to graduate will be met
  - Some individual situations might change in that students may have to make some choices
  - Virtual school could bridge any gaps

- Graduation requirement changes
  - Career Academy schedule should not limit any opportunities
6. With the exception of a few current year long courses, students will actually receive more time in the classroom than they do now. State and local testing days will be reduced.
    - Three weeks more for instruction
    - Not as many lost days due to testing
  7. A student's attention span is better suited for a shorter class period.
    - 30-45 minutes have proven optimal for instruction
  8. Many teachers have taught classes on a fifty-minute, six-period day or attended school on six-periods. Most of us attended school on a six-period day.
    - Certainly not a new concept – studied in 2005 and 2009
    - Went to block in 1999 to fulfill upcoming academic electives and driver's Ed.
    - Too many state requirements for a six period day as students are not offered enough opportunities
    - Time frame of a class is basically the same
  9. Teachers will have all year to prepare students for State End of Course Tests that will count 20% of the students' grade.
    - This is important as the high school graduation test is completed and End of Course Tests take their place
    - Systems and teachers will be evaluated based on how well their students do on End of Course Tests
  10. An effort will be made to minimize the loss of planning time for teachers.
    - Since teachers will be teaching six classes a day, substitutes will once again be called at the high schools