

Questions and Answers about the Purposed Flex-Time Schedule

What type of PD are the teachers receiving? Who is conducting the PD? Will teachers be given the opportunity to observe at schools that are already implementing a similar model?

Teachers have been and will continue to receive professional development around teaching in the 90-minute block through articles, teacher visits to other sites, and outside resources. The professional development has focused and will continue to focus on differentiate instruction to make sure varied students' needs are met, lesson planning during extended periods, and student engagement strategies.

If approved, when would Flex-Time actually be implemented at SAMOHI?

The Flex-Time Schedule would be implemented starting Fall 2019.

What is the process for monitoring how each teacher is using the extended class period?

We will continue to use our evaluation process, as well as learning walks to continue to monitor classroom instruction.

What does data from other schools using Flex-Time show about the impact on students who are already high-achievers?

The majority of high-achieving students are also functioning under high stress. The Flex-Time period provides an opportunity to relieve stress for the student by providing time to get assignments done during the school day allowing them to have a greater balance of their time outside of class. Additionally, the schedule allows more time for extra-curriculars and clubs that these students are typically already trying to engage in during the school day.

Currently, most of our students rush during lunch to either make up an assessment, attend a club meeting, or get help from a teacher. This results in students not being able to eat lunch and have downtime with their peers which is important for their social-emotional development.

Could you share data that supports the change to Flex-Time schedule from other schools?

According to the National Education Association, the research indicates that this schedule allows for more time and individual instruction in the classroom, longer cooperative learning activities in one period, more reflection time for students, less information to process over school days, and teachers have more time to plan and differentiate instruction. For equity and access, our WASC Accrediting Committee requires us to build in the opportunity for intervention into the school day prior to our three-year review.

The schools that we visited, Dos Pueblos High School and University High School in Irvine, both shared with us that their students have reported, since the implementation of a support period (Flex-Time), that they could not see their school day without this valuable opportunity. Additionally, the administration at Dos Pueblos shared, that the class with the highest attendance rate is their support period.

Would there be sufficient supervision to prevent kids who are not motivated from spending the Flex-Time goofing off?

During the pilot, all students were given the opportunity to select one of their six teachers. For students that did not select, they were assigned a study hall location. Security conducted a sweep of the campus in order to ensure that all students were getting to their assigned or selected locations.

If this schedule was adopted, we would continue a similar practice as mentioned. Additionally, we would have a more guided Flex-Time period for those students that may be getting a D or F in a course.

Although the school is not paid for AM classes, the school placed my child in an AM AP Course. How is it fair that they have fewer instructional minutes than their peers that happened to be placed in periods 1-6?

Based on the purposed schedule, AM would be starting at 7:03 a.m. That places the AM instructional minutes at 254 minutes for the week compared to 255 minutes in the other classes. This is only one minute less of instructional time for the week.

How do students know what options are available each day for Flex-Time and decide what would be best for them each day?

Flex-Time would only occur two days a week. For these two days, teachers will post the specific focus for each of their Flex-Time sessions. Additionally, there is a chart available online for students to see the other extension opportunities available.

What is the plan for 6th period sports on Monday?

Whether the sport has practice is at the discretion of the coach. It is more likely that if the sport is not in season, there will not be practice that day. It is highly likely that if the sport is in season, the coach will hold a shortened practice after school.

Will there be computers available during Flex-Time? Will students be permitted to sleep?

Rules, procedures, and guidelines for study halls during Flex-Time will be developed with input from teachers and students. Students will have access to sign up for the computer labs during the Flex-Time period.