

Sarasota County Schools

Change from block schedule
to seven-period day
for high schools in 2009-10

What is happening?

The District is changing...

- The school day from four 90-minute periods to seven 50-minute periods.
- The high school schedule from eight credits to seven credits.
- The number of credits required for graduation from 28 to 26.

Why is it being done?

- The district currently faces an estimated \$40 million budget shortfall for the 2009-2010 school year.
- A seven-period schedule will require about 70 fewer teachers than the block schedule
- The change will save the district about \$5 million a year.

Who will the change affect?

Students

- Will have three additional classes each day
- Will have one less credit per year
- Will earn a full credit in a year rather than in a semester
- Classes will meet every day.

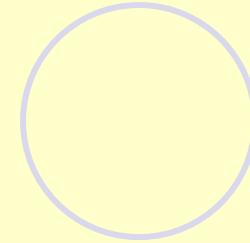
Who will the change affect?

Students

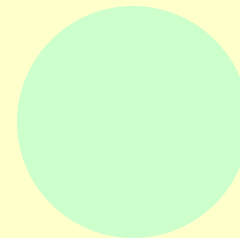
- Will receive additional instructional time per full credit (could be as much as 15 hours).
- Can choose from a more focused Program of Study with fewer electives and career paths
- Will have additional passing times
- Will have the same schedule every day

Who will the change affect?

Teachers...



- will teach more classes and students per day with reduced prep time; however, teachers will have additional instructional time with students during each course.

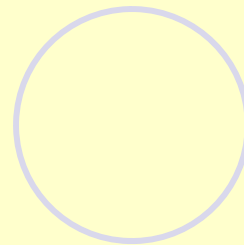
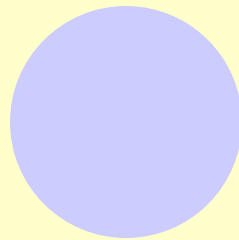
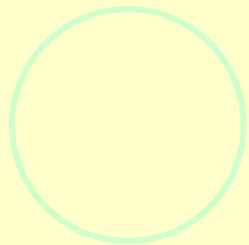


When will it happen?

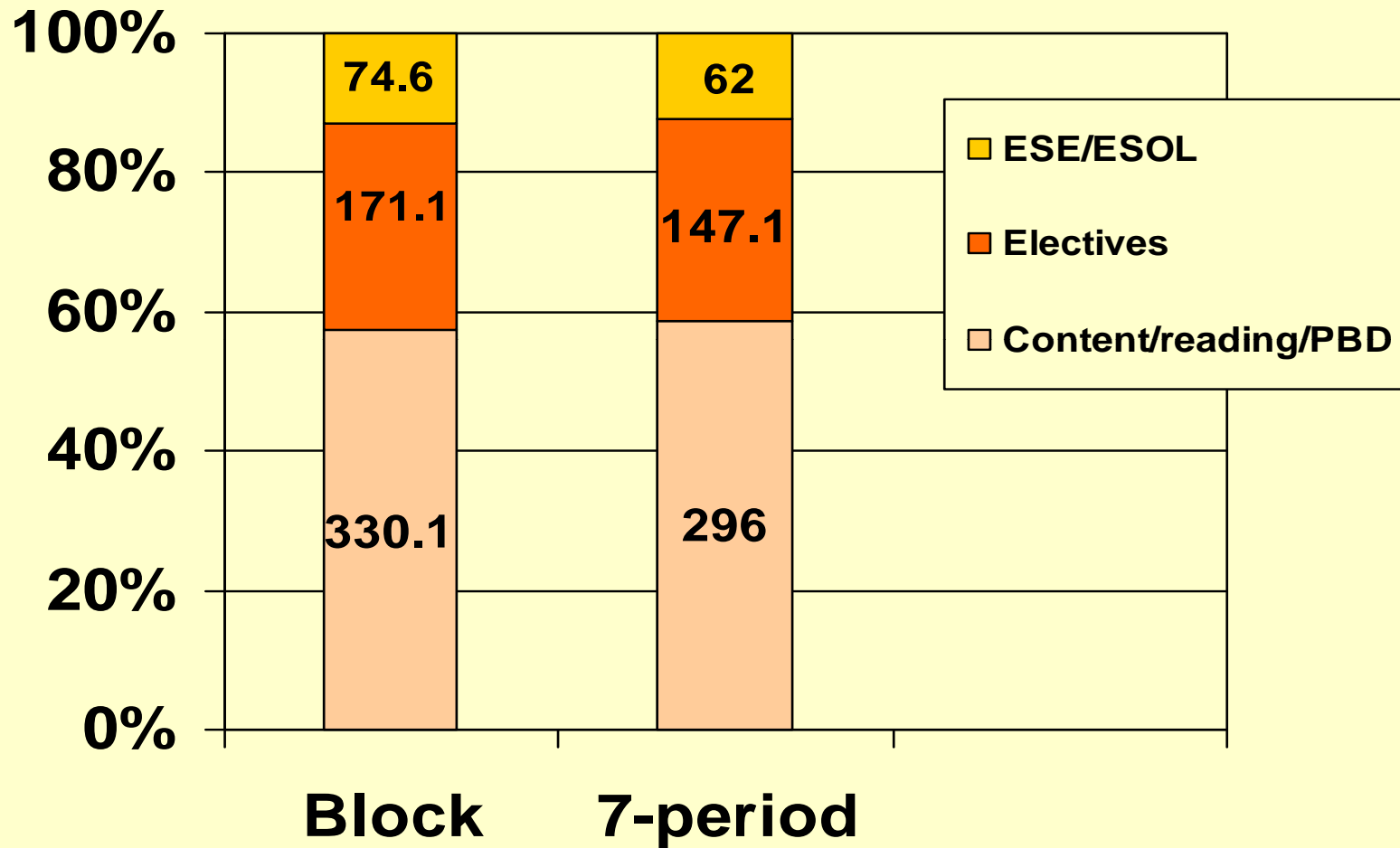
- Master schedules will be developed in February and March
- New schedule will start August 2009

Where will it happen?

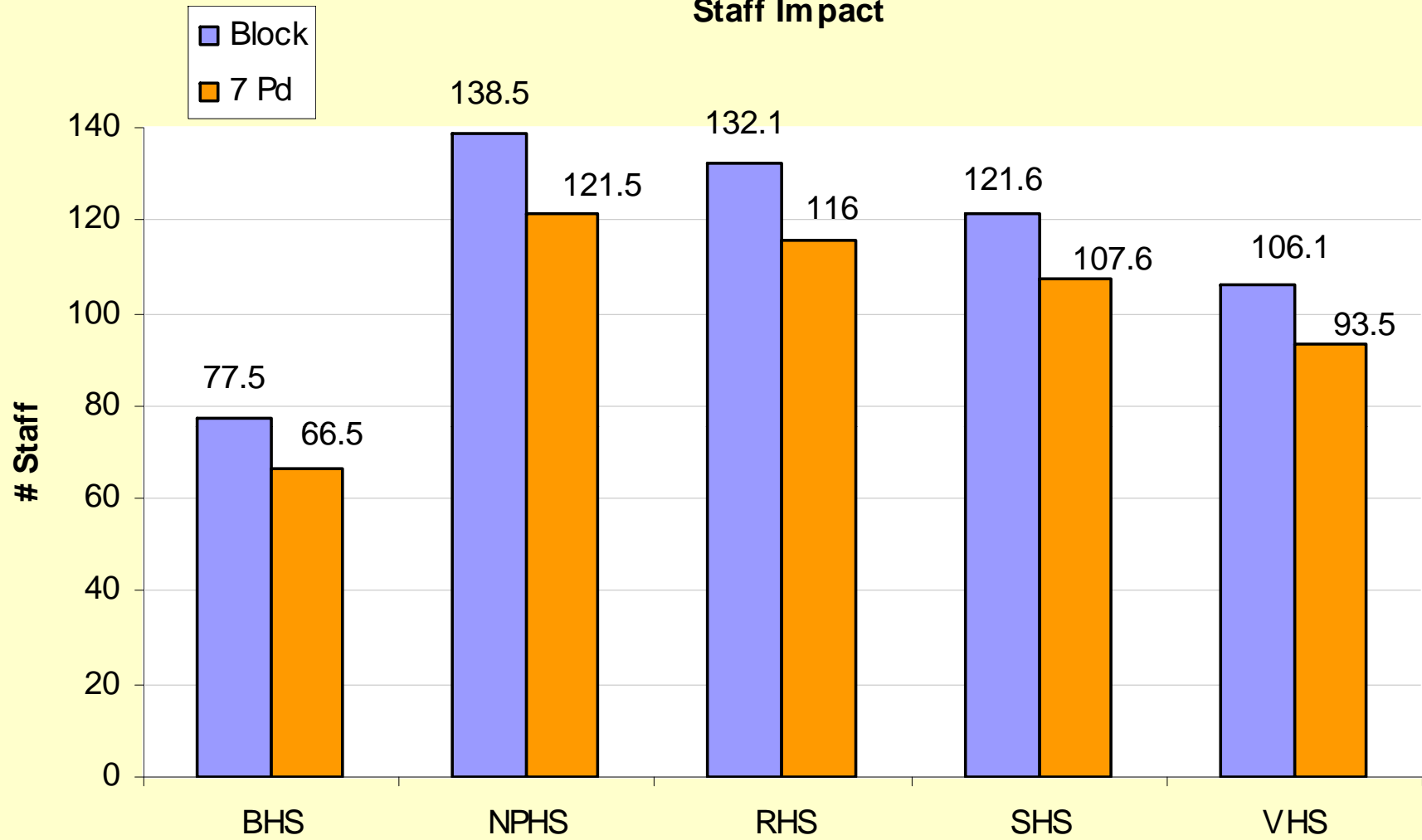
- All five Sarasota County comprehensive public high schools: Booker, North Port, Riverview, Sarasota and Venice



Staffing reductions



Staff Impact



7 Period Day Schedule Options

Credits	9th	10th	11th	12th	
4 English	1	1	1	1	
4 Math 1	1	1	1		
3 Science	1	1		1	1*elec.
3 Soc St	1	1	1		
1 Fine Art				1	
1 HOPE			1		
4 Major	1	1	1	1	
8 Electives					
4(Min/For.Lang)	1	1	1	1	
4 additional	1	1	1	1	
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	7	7	7	7	

Total possible credits= 28

Total required for graduation=26

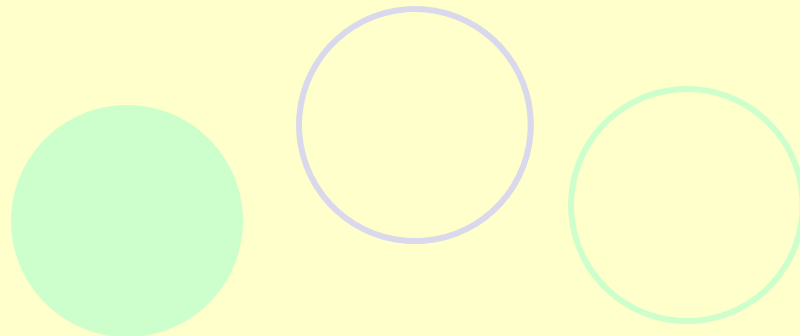
	Regular Schedule	(50 Minute Periods)		
Warning Bell	7:25			
1st Period	7:30 - 8:20			
2nd Period	8:25 - 9:15			
3rd Period	9:20 - 10:10	"A" LUNCH	"B" LUNCH	"C" LUNCH
		LUNCH: 10:10-10:40	4th Period: 10:15-11:05	4th Period:10:15-11:05
		4th Period 10:40-11:30	LUNCH: 11:05 - 11:35	5th Period 11:10-12:00
		5th Period 11:35-12:25	5th Period : 11:35-12:25	LUNCH 12-12:30
6th Period	12:30 - 1:20			
7th Period	1:25 - 2:15			

Advantages of seven-period schedule

- Schedule easy to read and understand for students and parents
- Courses will occur each day all year or all semester
- Absences for a shorter period of time will mean less material missed in a single day of absence.

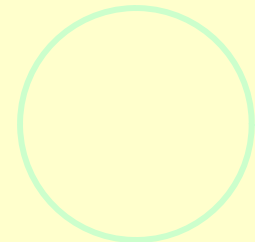
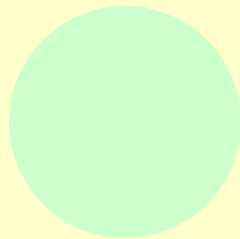
Advantages of seven-period schedule

- 50-minute classes will reduce mental fatigue and improve time on task.
- Space in schedule for credit retrieval (two extra credits)



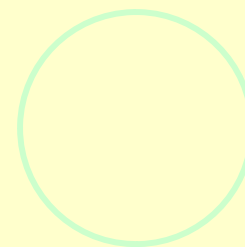
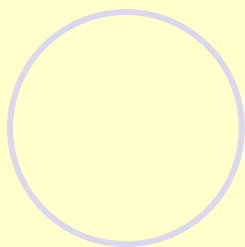
Advantages of a seven-period schedule

- 26 credits required for graduation is more than the minimum required for graduation by the state of Florida. 28-credit schedule allows for advanced course work, CTE courses, SCTI, VPA, Executive Internships.

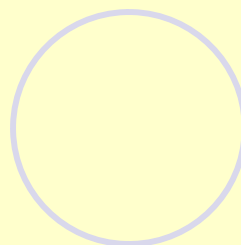
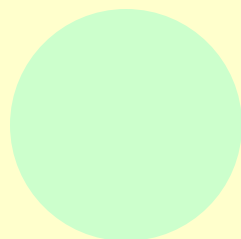


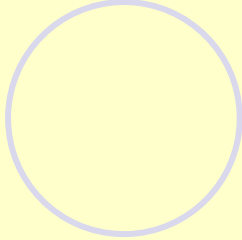
Advantages of a seven-period schedule

- Teachers will have more minutes of daily contact time with students
(Block = 270; Seven-period = 300)
- Students will have more minutes of contact time per year with teachers
(Block = 8,100; Seven-period = 9,000)

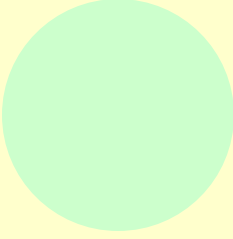
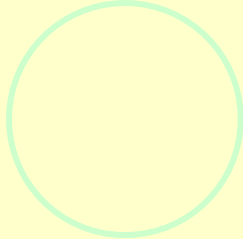


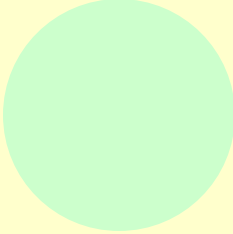
Impact on NeXt Generation Learning Initiatives



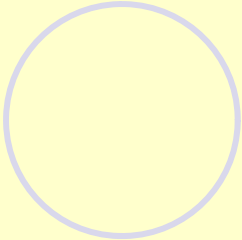
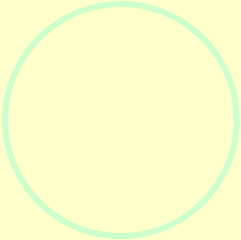


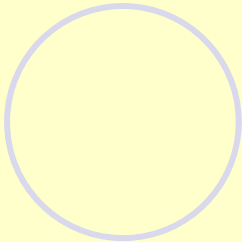
Small Learning Communities will be maintained, though some may merge due to reduced enrollment.



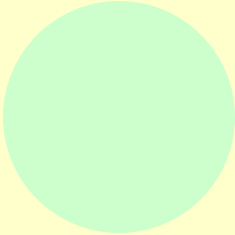
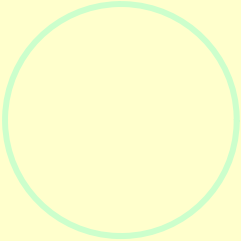


Common collaborative planning by SLC could be a challenge in some schools depending on the number of SLCs at the school.

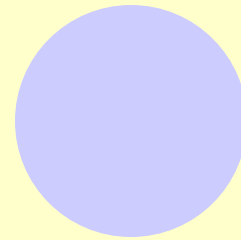
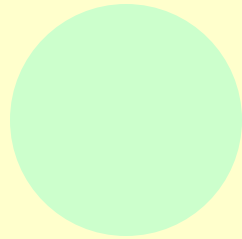
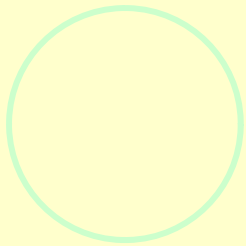




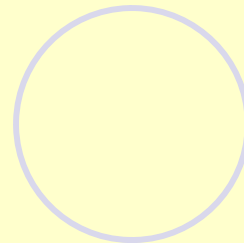
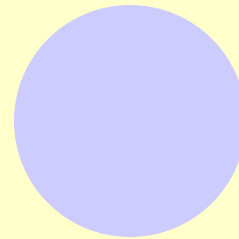
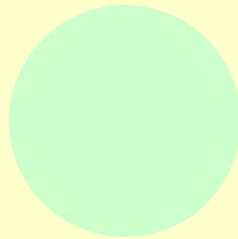
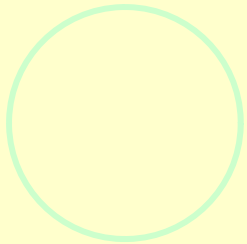
Schools will be forced to streamline offerings. The elective programs that are most popular and appropriate for each school will be maintained.

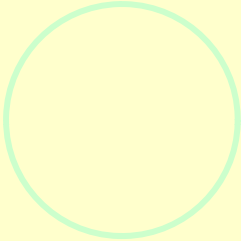


Students will have fewer opportunities to take electives, but will be able to maintain their majors under the seven-period schedule. If students fail courses, they may have some trouble progressing through their major.

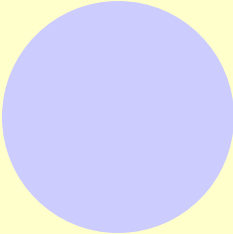


Weekly advisory will be maintained
under the seven period schedule.



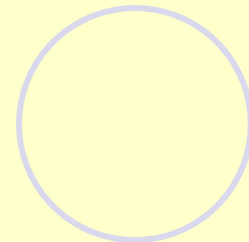
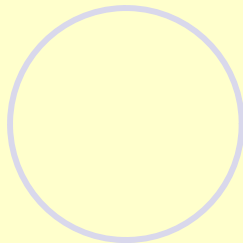
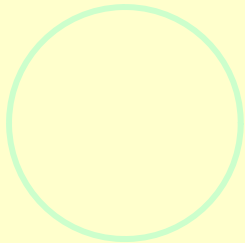


Frequently Asked Questions



Q. How will the seven-period day affect class size?

A. Class size is governed by the state class size amendment, not the type of schedule.



Q. Will the schedule change affect the number of elective classes offered?

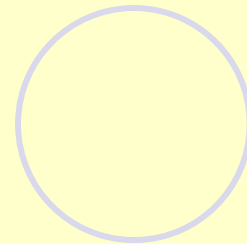
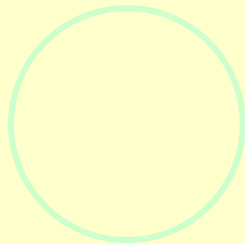
A. Students will take one less course per year than they currently do under block scheduling. Since required courses must remain in the schedule, the number of core, non-core and Sarasota County Technical Institute (SCTI) elective courses is expected to be reduced.

Q. How will it be determined which elective classes remain in the master schedule?

A. The scheduling team at each school will design a master schedule, including elective offerings, based on the level of demand for specific programs; the curriculum needs of the school's Small Learning Communities; and the school's focus on Career and Technical Education, visual and performing arts programs, and other career pathways.

Q. Will high- and low-achieving students lose elective opportunities?

A. Because the number of courses students will take in their high-school careers will be reduced from 32 to 28, all students will lose some elective opportunities. This change is not expected to have a greater effect on any one group of students.



Q. Will schools offer classes before and/or after school?

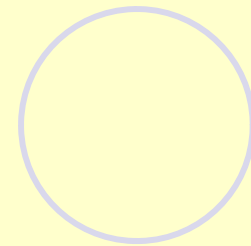
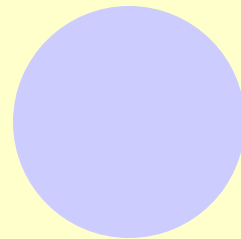
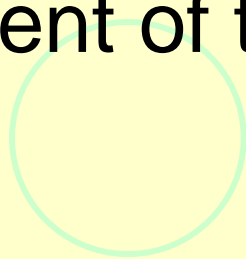
A. Although the change to a seven-period schedule is being made because of budget considerations, the district expects to meet the academic needs of all students within the seven-period schedule. Individual schools may offer some before-school or after-school classes on a very limited basis.

Q. Is the schedule change expected to impact recent standardized testing gains in the district's high schools?

A. Many high-achieving Florida districts use a traditional schedule. As long as the quality of instruction remains high, the change in schedule is not expected to affect student achievement.

Q. Will the high school scheduling change be the main way the district reduces its upcoming deficit?

A. The district is facing a \$40 million projected budget shortfall for 2009-10. The high school schedule change is expected to save an estimated \$5 million, or 12 percent of the total.



Frequently Asked Questions about the change to a seven-period day in Sarasota County public high schools for the 2009-2010 school year

The School Board of Sarasota County has approved changing the district's high school schedule from a block schedule to a traditional seven-period day, the schedule most commonly followed by Florida high schools. The change is expected to save the district \$4-\$5 million in the face of a \$40 million budget shortfall projected for the 2009-2010 school year. The district is confident that the quality of its academic programs will be maintained under the new schedule.

The questions and answers below have been prepared to address some of the most frequent concerns expressed by staff regarding the effects of the new schedule.

1. Q. How many teaching periods will teachers have with a seven-period schedule?

A. Teachers will teach six periods and have one planning period per day.

2. Q. Will the seven-period schedule affect the number of different courses teachers will be required to prepare for daily?

A. The instructional bargaining unit contract stipulates that high-school teachers will have no more than three preparations per day.

3. Q. How many students will teachers instruct daily on a seven-period schedule?

A. Under the current state class size amendment, the number of students in high school core academic classes is limited to a school-wide average of 25, though individual class sizes may vary. Elective courses typically have higher average enrollments.

4. Q. How will the seven-period schedule affect planning time?

A. The instructional bargaining unit contract stipulates that teachers in high schools on traditional schedules must be allowed at least 425 minutes of planning time per week, with 55 minutes per day scheduled during the student day.

5. Q. How will the planning period be scheduled?

A. The planning period will include one class period and one student transition period.

6. Q. Will teachers have additional duties on a seven-period schedule?

A. The only additional duties required of teachers on a seven-period schedule will be supervising students during additional class-change transitions.

7. Q. How many fewer high-school teaching positions will be needed district-wide as a result of the change to a seven-period schedule?

A. Although an exact number is yet to be determined, the number of high-school teaching positions is expected to be reduced district-wide by 65 to 70 due to the schedule change. Additional instructional positions are expected to be reduced at all levels district-wide due to reduced enrollment and the budget shortfall.

8. Q. Will the schedule change affect the number of elective classes offered?

A. Students will take one less course per year than they currently do under block scheduling. Since required courses must remain in the schedule, the number of core, non-core and Sarasota County Technical Institute (SCTI) elective courses is expected to be reduced.

9. Q. How will it be determined which elective classes remain in the master schedule?

A. The scheduling team at each school will design a master schedule, including elective offerings, based on several factors. These factors include the level of demand for specific programs, the curriculum needs of the school's Small Learning Communities and the school's focus on Career and Technical Education, art and music programs, and other career pathways.

10. Q. Will high- and low-achieving students lose elective opportunities?

A. Because the number of courses students will take in their high-school careers will be reduced from 32 to 28, all students will lose some elective opportunities. This change is not expected to have a greater effect on any one group of students.

11. Q. Will schools offer classes before and/or after school?

A. Although the change to a seven-period schedule is being made because of budget considerations, the district expects to meet the academic needs of all students within the seven-period schedule. Individual schools may offer some classes before and/or after school on a very limited basis.

12. Q. Will teachers have the same Small Learning Community, Professional Learning Community and advisory expectations under the seven-period schedule?

A. SLCs, PLCs and advisory periods are proven best practices that support teacher effectiveness and promote student success. A change to a seven-period day will not impact these best practices.

13. Q. Will the district provide training and support for schools as they transition from a block schedule to a seven-period schedule?

A. The district's Professional Development Department will formulate a plan to assist schools to make the transition from the block schedule to a seven-period day. The training required will be less extensive than that provided before the move to the block schedule because of recent professional development trainings. The skills teachers have developed through training in instructional technology, Kagan and McREL teaching strategies and other professional development opportunities will continue to be effective under the new schedule.

14. Q. Is the schedule change expected to impact recent standardized testing gains in the district's high schools?

A. Many high-achieving Florida districts use a traditional schedule (six or seven periods). As long as the quality of instruction remains high, a change in schedule is not expected to affect student achievement.

15. Q. Will Exceptional Student Education teachers be given additional planning time to develop Individual Education Plans?

A. Every ESE student is required by federal law to have an IEP. Just as they have now, ESE teachers will be given the same amount of daily planning and preparation time as general education teachers. Schools generally find creative ways to accommodate ESE teachers' need for additional support during their busiest times.

16. Q. Will the high school scheduling change be the main way the district reduces its upcoming deficit?

A. The district is facing budget shortfall of approximately \$40 million for 2009-10. The high school schedule change is expected to save an estimated \$5 million, or 12 percent of the total.

17. Q. Has the district considered all potential budget measures, including closing some district specialty schools?

A. An exhaustive review of all district expenditures has been conducted to ensure we are considering all possibilities. A list of recommended budget reductions has been presented to the school board. It includes changes in transportation, eliminating data and literacy coaches and other major reductions in service levels. At this time, closing schools has not been recommended.

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