



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS AUG. 18, 2014

Lake County Schools is standardizing bell schedules for the 2014-2015 school year. The change will affect most schools, albeit the largest difference at any one school is no more than 20 minutes.

The new bell schedule is:

- High school — 7:20 a.m. to 2:35 p.m.
- Elem. school — 8:25 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
- Middle school — 9:20 a.m. to 4:10 p.m.

A standardized bell schedule was proposed as part of the High School Redesign opportunity outlined in the EngageLCS initiative. Through the \$1.2 million, grant-funded EngageLCS project, Lake County Schools is evaluating the best use of its existing financial resources to ensure students continue to get a great education.

The new bell schedule — coupled with high school class schedules changing from a block model (four periods a day) to a seven-period day — will increase instructional time for a high school class period by as much as 40 hours per year.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH LAKE SCHOOLS



Social media gives the School District another avenue to share some of its success stories, including student accomplishments, teacher awards and upcoming events. A weekly newsletter and blog also help the District communicate with the community. To receive the digital newsletter, visit lakeschools.com, click on the subscribe button and enter your e-mail address.



201 W. Burleigh Blvd. • Tavares, FL 32778
352-253-6500 • lakeschools.com

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lake County Schools is to provide every student with individual opportunities to excel.

VISION STATEMENT

A dynamic, progressive and collaborative learning community embracing change and diversity where every student will graduate with the skills needed to succeed in postsecondary education and the workplace.



High School Redesign

2014-2015
School Year



Frequently Asked Questions

WHY MAKE THE CHANGE FROM A BLOCK SCHEDULE TO A SEVEN-PERIOD DAY?

More rigorous state standards for teaching and learning are increasing the expectations for students and the demands on teachers.

A shift from a block schedule (4 periods a day) at Lake County's high schools to a seven-period day will create better conditions for teaching and learning.

HOW WILL THE NEW SCHEDULE BENEFIT STUDENTS?

Moving to a seven-period day will benefit students in many ways. First and foremost, it will maximize instructional time. As many high schools currently have slightly varied class schedules (straight block schedule, modified block schedule) and bell schedules (start and end times for the school day) the instructional time varies per school.

A consistent model will provide all high school students the same opportunity to excel. In some cases the combination of the change to a seven-period day and the new bell schedule will provide students with 40 additional hours of instructional time for each class per year.

The increase in instructional time will have positive impacts for students. Expected outcomes for the high school schedule redesign is an increase

in graduation rates, course grades and proficiency scores on state assessments for reading, math and writing.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR TEACHERS?

During the class schedule redesign, a key factor for high schools was standardizing and increasing collaborative time for teachers to lesson design and plan. The implementation of the new Florida Standards requires a significant increase in collaborative time for teachers. The seven-period day gives high schools more flexibility in providing common planning time for teachers in like subjects.

WILL THE SCHEDULE CHANGE PREVENT STUDENTS FROM RECEIVING THE NECESSARY CREDITS TO GRADUATE?

The State of Florida requires the successful completion of a minimum of 24 credits to graduate from high school.

The seven-period day will provide students with the possibility of earning 28 total credits. Of the 24 required credits, 16 core curriculum credits are required (4 in English, 4 in Mathematics, 3 in Science, 3 in Social Studies, 1 in Fine or Performing Arts, Speech or Debate, & 1 in Physical Education).

Because of the change from a block schedule to a seven-period day, some seniors may be unable to meet the requirements as some courses cannot be taken concurrently (i.e. Spanish I and Spanish II). To alleviate these issues, high schools will be providing a transition period. By "linking" classes, students will be able to take two consecutive periods of a certain subject so they can complete the course in one semester.

HOW WILL THE SCHEDULE CHANGE IMPACT CAREER-TECHNICAL COURSES?

Lake County Schools is a leader in the state with its advanced offerings of Career-Technical Education (CTE) courses. Lake County's 10 middle schools and eight high schools house more than 100 state-of-the-art CTE laboratories. Thirty-eight Career and Professional (CAP) Academies provide students the opportunity to earn industry certifications.

CTE courses that need additional time to cover the necessary hands-on learning experiences will be afforded the opportunity to "link" classes. By combining two periods of the seven-period class schedule, students in CTE courses will continue to excel in their chosen career track.

HOW DOES THE HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE MAXIMIZE RESOURCES?

The move to a seven-period high school schedule will free up \$4.6 million. The savings is a direct result of teachers teaching more classes, therefore about 70 less teachers are needed at the high schools. The entire school district employs more than 2,500 teachers. On average more than 200 teachers are hired each summer. Through natural attrition, it is anticipated this reduction can be absorbed.

The \$4.6 million savings is being reinvested in schools. Some of the plans of EngageLCS include: the addition of teachers to work with struggling students; para-professionals to support student literacy; and teachers to assist schools with the new Florida Standards.

For more information about EngageLCS, log on to <http://engageLCS.mindmixer.com>.