This brief is intended to serve as an update regarding the work and progress that has been made toward implementing the eight-period hybrid schedule at our high schools.

County-Wide Design Team & School Schedule Team Work

Thanks to a great deal of hard work by school staff and members of DART (Department of Accountability, Research, and Technology) staff, school master schedules were up and running prior to the beginning of school. School staff continue to make adjustments to student schedules as they have done in past years so that students have the courses they need to fulfill grade level and graduation requirements. We are pleased that the opening of school went well, and school schedules are functioning. We greatly appreciate everyone’s patience and feedback as we have navigated the schedule change and SIS (Student Information System) turnover.

The three high schools reported results of school scheduling efforts to the Department of Instruction and are summarized on the attached table that has been shared with the School Board. One item to note on the report is the degree to which each school incorporated year-long courses into the semester course schedule.

School and central office staff will continue to take a team approach to improving current school schedules and improving the schedule design, student information system, and scheduling process for 2011-12.

We will be surveying families regarding their children’s schedules this fall to gain more insight into improvements we can make and how to prioritize them.

High School Schedule Goals

We should strive for a school schedule that is flexible enough to provide more learning time for students who need it and more choices for those who seek enrichment. Our design team is considering the following goals for our high school schedules:

On a short term basis, we are seeking to…

- Balance the workload of students.
- Balance the workload of teachers.
- Provided extended learning time.
- Provide time in the master schedule for extra support.
- Consider policies and grading practices that focus on teaching and learning.
- Increase the amount of time students are actively engaged in their learning.
- Maintain high expectations for all students.

On a long term basis, we are seeking to…

- Increase graduation rates county-wide.
- Reduce dropout rates county-wide.
- Increase the percentage of graduates who continue to college or specialized training after high school.
• Accommodate increased graduation and course requirements as mandated by Virginia law beginning in 2011-12.
• Increase the percentage of students earning an Advanced Studies Diploma.
• Improve student academic performance.
• Increase the percentage of students taking college level courses while in high school.

School Schedule Questions or Concerns

As your child works with the course schedule, your child can visit a school counselor with questions or concerns. Parents can also contact school counselors and principals with questions or concerns about their child’s schedule.