



Academies of
ANCHORAGE

High School Schedule Adjustment

ASD is exploring adjustments to the number of classes offered in the high school class bell schedule to provide additional opportunities for students to earn credits through courses of their choice. This will support the district's efforts to have all students graduate college, career and life ready.

Additional elective credits will increase access to career-themed electives through the Academies of Anchorage, provide more opportunities for academic support (credit recovery, special education, English language learners) and offer additional collaboration time for educators.

Factors to Consider		Current Schedule	Proposed New Schedule Options	
		6-Period Schedule	7-Period Schedule	8-Period Schedule
	Classes per Day	Monday & Friday: 6 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 4	Monday: 3 Tuesday–Friday: 4 or 7, depending on option	4 per day
	Instructional Time <i>*Approximate length of block period</i>	80 minutes Monday 42 minutes, Friday 53 minutes*	90 minutes/ Skinny period 55*	81 minutes*
	Total Instructional Minutes per class, per semester	71 hours, 45 minutes	62 hours, 21 minutes	57 hours, 31 minutes
	Total Instructional Minutes per semester, all classes	430 hours, 30 minutes	436 hours, 27 minutes	460 hours, 12 minutes
	Credits Toward Graduation <i>(22.5 current requirement)</i>	24	28	32
	Approximate Cost	—	\$5 million	\$3.5 million



Sample Schedules

[Bell Schedule Variations](#)



7- and 8-Period Schedules

College, Career and Life Ready



The expanded schedule will open doors for students by providing:

- The ability to complete Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways, preparing them for in-demand careers.
- Access to valuable dual-credit courses, internships and job-shadowing experiences, giving them a head start on their futures.
- Enhanced transcripts that showcase their achievements and increase their chances of college and post-secondary admissions.
- Ultimately, a higher ASD graduation rate, setting students up for success in their chosen paths.



Academic Choice & Electives

The expanded schedule will allow students to complete their Academies of Anchorage CTE pathways while still offering access to the wide range of electives available at ASD high schools. Students can continue exploring their interests in subjects like art, music, world languages, JROTC, AP, IB courses and more.



Academic Supports

ASD will continue supporting students who need extra help, including those in special education, English language learners or targeted interventions. The expanded schedule also will give more students access to credit recovery, academic support and time for AP/IB prep, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to succeed.



Educator Collaboration

With a 7- or 8-period schedule, teachers will gain valuable non-instructional time for collaboration. This dedicated time will allow educators to expand their focus on critical areas like student intervention, curriculum development and family outreach. Research shows that educator collaboration is a driving force for student achievement and schoolwide improvement.



Research

The research on A/B block scheduling in high schools presents a mixed bag of potential benefits and drawbacks, with no definitive recommendation for widespread adoption of a 7-or 8-period schedule. Both would offer deeper learning experiences, improved student-teacher relationships, reduced homework and increased course offerings but also pose challenges like maintaining student focus and potential learning gaps. Additionally, the impact on student achievement and test scores is mixed, varying by subject area and lacking conclusive evidence favoring one model over another.

[Detailed Research Summary](#)



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Educating All Students for Success in Life

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