

High School Trimester/Semester Comparisons

Issue	Trimester—15 blocks	Semester—14 blocks	Financial/Other Implications
Instructional Time for Students	% of instructional time students receive (14 classes) 1 Study=93.3% (13 classes) 2 Studies=86.6%* (12 classes) 3 Studies= 80% *Currently students have 2 Required Studies and 86.6% of their time is spent in class	% of instructional time students receive (14 classes) No study required (13 classes) 1 Study=92.8%* (12 classes) 2 Studies=85.7% For the same staffing that we currently have, in a semester, students would have 92.8% of their time spent in class	Each required study hall added to the schedule results in approximately 1000-1050 fewer requests for electives. Consequently, if elective teachers teach an average of 18 students per section (current staffing 09-10), we would need 5.0-5.8 fewer elective teachers at a cost of : \$55861 (avg.) x 5=\$279,305.00 \$55861 (avg.) x 5.8=\$323,993.00 per study hall added.
How teacher time is allocated	Teacher prep time=20% of day 1 period of 5	Teacher prep time=14.2% 1 period of 7	Teacher prep time is reduced in a semester schedule.
Student Rosters	Student load per day (avg. 25 per class) 75 students for 33.3% of year (1 Trimester) 75 students for 33.3% of year (1 Trimester) 100 students for 33.3% of year (1 Trimester) Total students taught in year (may not be different students)=250	Student load per day (avg. 25 per class) 125 for 50% of year (1 Semester) 125 for 50% of year (1 Semester) Total students taught in year (may not be different students)=250	Teachers teach the same number of students throughout the year but they have fewer at any given time in a trimester.
Time devoted to duties	Teacher time devoted to duties=20% of day for 66.6% of the year.	Teacher time devoted to duties=14.2% of the day for 100% of year.	
Duty coverage and Directed Studies (3 Studies in a trimester & 2 Studies in a semester)	With 12 classes in a trimester, there is a need to cover approximately 3000 study seats (avg. 1000 students needing study each term). ~200 students per period needing study. (1000/5 periods) 66.6% of full-time teaching staff available for coverage each trimester. If there are 85 teachers available for duty, the high school can schedule 11 studies per period each trimester Avg. class size per study=18.18 At an average study size of 22, this results in 2 teachers being available each period to cover hallways and cafeterias.	With 12 classes in a semester, there is a need to cover approximately 2000 study seats (avg. 1000 students needing study each term). ~142 students per period needing study (1000/7 periods). 100% of full-time teaching staff available for coverage each semester. If there are 85 teachers available for duty, the high school can schedule 12 studies per period each semester. Avg. class size per study=11.8 At an average study size of 22, this results in 5 teachers being available each period to cover hallways and cafeterias.	Fewer studies per period allows more efficient use of facilities; More teachers available to cover hallways and cafeterias. If teachers are able to cover areas that otherwise campus monitors or paraprofessionals would need to cover this saves approximately \$14,000-\$20,000 . There are also safety implications. The more adults that we have in corridors and in the cafeteria, the better chance there is of maintaining a safe and orderly environment.

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<p>Textbooks and other Resources</p>	<p>Resources can be used more efficiently in a trimester system. No need to purchase additional books unless class size dramatically increases or we limit offerings and have more sections of a particular course.</p>	<p>Resources are needed for every student enrolled in a course. This would mean purchasing additional textbooks in all content areas.</p>	<p>A very detailed inventory would need to be completed. We attempted to conduct this last year but as the course offerings are reduced, fewer courses are running with more sections and this count will need to be taken again. For example, 9th and 10th grade Social Studies had enough books but the upper class electives did not, especially with reduced offerings and more sections. World Language did not need additional books, Math Dept. needed \$5,000 in books to switch to a semester and English and Science would need to be reassessed. \$\$ Implications TBD</p>
<p>Professional Time to reconfigure courses</p>	<p>Professional Development—none needed as we maintain status quo</p>	<p>Professional Development—courses will need to be adjusted for pacing; 3 term courses will need to be modified</p>	<p>Courses that would need special attention: AP Calculus BC AP Biology (3 term) Pre-Algebra 3 course sequence YR Algebra MSAN General and Special Education Support Programs \$\$</p>
<p>Power School (Student Information System)</p>	<p>No changes required</p>	<p>Would require modifications in transcript and other reporting to support a new schedule. The implementation of trimesters took several months. The complexities included transcripts that included classes meeting with different patterns. The GPA calculations that result from mixing trimesters and semesters is complicated and we would need to create the scoring algorithms that we can trust to be accurate.</p>	<p>One-time cost to make the conversion. May include programming costs and personnel/overtime costs depending on the staffing we have available for this transition. Estimated \$5000.00 (2 days x 2500/day for consultant fees to make the conversion).</p>