INCREASE INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

OVERVIEW

Our teachers are expected to ensure students receive rigorous instruction in core subjects, get exposure to art, music, PE, libraries, technology, and world languages, and enjoy opportunities to explore specialized programs – all within the existing school day. On top of those demands, finding time to provide struggling students with additional supports and thriving students with enrichment opportunities can be incredibly difficult.

One option to provide these additional supports includes extending the school year. This is typically an expansion of the traditional 180 day school year, usually adding up to 10-20 days throughout the school year and at the end of the year. One school, Raymond EC, is piloting this program this school year. Another option is to extend the school day which lengthens the traditional school day, creating one additional hour at the end of the day for additional instruction. How each school uses the extra time varies by the needs of that particular school community. Typically, teachers spend more time on instruction and students engage in more time on task, both of which create an opportunity for better outcomes for students.

Given the current structure of the 180 day school year and 6 ½ hour school day and the unique needs of each of our students, there is simply not enough time to provide our students – particularly those in our lowest-performing schools – with everything they need to be successful in college and career while allowing them to explore and develop their interests.

OPTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The model for implementing extended day or extended school year programs can vary but may include:

- Increasing time on task in reading and/or math through blended learning environments;
- Spending additional time on specialty subjects (i.e. art, music, world language) that allow increased time on reading and/or math;
- Incorporating cross-content teaching such as incorporating math through science or literacy through history;
- Using creative scheduling to blend enrichment and social development.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increase literacy and math proficiency rates
- Improve student satisfaction
- Increase enrollment
- Increase promotion rates

FOCUS QUESTIONS

- With an extended day program model, how would you want the day to be structured?
- With an extended year program model, how would you want the year to be structured?
- What you would expect your child and other students to gain from having a longer school day or longer school year?
(If you don't have children, consider your neighborhood school when responding)