

Key Points that Emerged from the WHS Reflection Study

The following ideas and themes emerged from the teacher and student focus groups and surveys distributed to teachers, students and parents.

1. More than ½ of the students regardless of GPA level, felt that 4 periods/day was ideal.
2. GPA was correlated to the ability to catch up in semester classes.
3. Lower GPA and higher absences are not a good mix for the semester schedule.
4. Students had preferences for whether classes should be A/B, semester or every day for semester or year. Sometimes their preferences were different from teachers' preferences.
5. The loss of instructional minutes does not equate to the loss of essential content knowledge across all content areas.
6. AP courses work better with an A/B schedule not for a semester.
7. Teachers need help with using instructional strategies for block scheduling.
8. Parents support and trust the school administration and educators to make decisions for the students' education.
9. Parents expressed disappointment with the WHS leadership/concern about the process to determine the schedule.
10. Parents were dismayed about a small but vocal group of affluent parents overtaking the process.
11. Parents expressed concern about the school board's professionalism and focus.
12. Parents shared their concern that teachers have not been equipped to be successful in the new schedule.
13. The collaborative culture of the school needs to be restored to move ahead.
14. Emphasize an iterative design process mindset: it will not be perfect the first time.
15. Work to reach a consensus between teachers, parents, etc. and establish performance measures to use to guide decisions about the schedule.
16. Meet monthly to discuss schedule implementation issues and concerns and work together across departments for solutions.
17. Provide administrative support; similar to project manager.
18. Work to establish two-way communication with parents through multiple modalities to seek input regarding schedule decisions.