

January 20, 2024

TIME AND LEARNING AGREEMENT

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

1. The weekly hours for students will be:
 - four (4) days of six (6) hours and 40 minutes, “regular school day” (8:10 am to 2:50 pm) and
 - one (1) day of four (4) hours and 10 minutes, “weekly short day”. (8:10 am to 12:20 pm) (*New #1 added to replace #7*)
2. The regular work day for all elementary teachers will begin 10 minutes before students are expected to report to their classroom/homeroom for attendance purposes. The regular work day shall conclude at the same time daily, which shall be 10 minutes after student dismissal time on a regular school day.
3. The Newton Public Schools will provide citywide professional development during the regular school day. Teachers will be released from their regular teaching duties.
4. The parties acknowledge and agree that the time after the weekly student short day release shall be designated for the purposes of professional collaboration, meetings (e.g. staff meetings, grade level/PLC meetings, department meetings, committees), and learning in support of school, department, and district goals, and these activities will continue to be subject to the direction and approval of the principal or principal’s designee.
5. The parties agree that the schedule below shall guide the use of time after the weekly student short day release. It is understood that the principal/designee may, on occasion, make alterations to this schedule as necessary to respond to building and/or district needs:
 - a. One staff meeting per month
 - b. Three (3) meetings of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) per month or four (4) in a month containing 5 weekly short days
 - c. One department meeting per month (Specialists [e.g. Library, Art, Music, PE teachers], ELL teachers, Special educators [e.g. Special Education teachers, SW/Psych, Speech Language pathologists])
 - d. Three hours of personal planning time per month (four hours in a month that has five weekly short days).
 - e. The district reserves the right to use 4 hours per year from this personal planning time for urgent, unexpected, or mandated district-wide staff training or professional development.
 - f. Specialists, special educators, and ELL teacher schedules shall include the equivalent of the additional weekly short day personal planning time (180 minutes of planning time per month; 240 minutes in a month with 5 weekly short days). Such time may occur on weekly short day afternoons and/or during the regular school day.

- g. Instructional coaches will develop their schedules to allow for the equivalent of the weekly short day planning time during the school day so that they can dedicate weekly short day afternoons to professional collaboration and consulting with colleagues.
 - h. Teachers will continue to use the weekly short day afternoons adjacent to the two District-wide early release teacher discretion Thursdays at their discretion (e.g., planning and preparation, meetings, etc).
- 6. The Elementary Oversight Committee, with an equal number of members appointed by the Committee and the Association, will convene as needed for the purposes of overseeing implementation of the Agreement and resolving related problems.
- 7. The district will schedule up to and including six (6) District-wide early release days per year. Of these six, four may be used for district or building based professional development or training, and two shall continue to be used at the teachers' discretion during the elementary conference periods.
- 5. The Committee will have the option to permanently change the weekly short day dismissal time by extending the dismissal time by fifteen (15) minutes.

If the Committee exercises this option, all work days for elementary teachers will remain the same length, even with contact time increasing by fifteen (15) minutes on the weekly short days. The thirty (30) minute duty free lunch time, as well as allocation of adequate travel time for teachers, would remain in effect.

Secondary

MIDDLE SCHOOL TIME AND LEARNING AGREEMENT

BIGELOW, DAY, AND OAK HILL MIDDLE SCHOOLS

1. The week shall consist of four (4) days of 6.5 hours and one (1) day of 5.75 hours, for a total of 31.75 hours (1905 minutes) per week. The goal is to minimize the spread in the start/stop time among the 4 schools.
2. The regular work day will begin 10 minutes before students are expected to report to their classroom/homeroom for attendance purposes. The regular work day will end 10 minutes after the students are dismissed from school, except for weekly student short days when the regular work day for teachers will end at the end of the teacher work day. Time during the regular work day not already assigned for direct work with students, collaboration, other meetings or lunch shall continue to be considered preparation time, for the general purpose of preparing for instruction or for additional collaboration with other educators, and teachers will be available as needed. Teachers may also volunteer to substitute during this time, s in accordance with the requirements in Article 16, Section 2 of the Parties' Collective Bargaining Agreement.
3. There may be up to and including six (6) special early release days during the year when students are dismissed after at least 3 hours of instructional time. Professional Development occurring on these special early release days shall last for three hours.
4. Teachers will have up to 1215 minutes/5-day week of contact time with students per week.
5. On weekly student short days, professional development meetings will begin 10 minutes after the students are dismissed from school and last no longer than 80 minutes.
- 5A. Teachers may be assigned up to three duties per six-day cycle (which include advisory as an option).
6. Teachers will have one (1) duty-free lunch period/day based on the building schedule.
7. Team teachers will have up to five (5) periods every two (2) cycles for scheduled team and Grade Level Department meetings.
8. Teachers (e.g., SPED teachers) who are regularly scheduled for more than two (2) meetings per cycle will be compensated with additional preparation time for scheduled meetings above the two (2) per cycle.
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10. All teachers will have an average of nine and one half (9.5) preparation periods/cycle or fifty-seven (57) preparation periods over a six-cycle period. Preparation time is defined as time during which the teacher has no direct service time with students.

It is the goal of the Committee and the Association to balance the teaching load of all teachers equitably.

11. Homeroom, lunch and passing time are not counted as part of 1215 minutes/week.
12. Team teachers will have up to 24 teaching periods in their core subject per cycle. Multi-team teachers will teach up to 30 periods per cycle. Team teachers will have up to and including 4 additional periods working with students.
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14. The Committee and the Administration will consult the Association prior to any significant changes being made to the split between core contact time and OSLT/Academic Responsibilities.
15. The Middle School Oversight Committee, with an equal number of members appointed by the Committee and the Association, will convene as needed for the purpose of overseeing implementation of the Agreement and resolving related problems.

BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

1. The week shall consist of four (4) days of 6.5 hours and one (1) day of 5.75 hours, for a total of 31.75 hours (1905 minutes) per week. The goal is to minimize the spread in the start/stop time among the 4 schools.
2. The regular work day will begin 10 minutes before students are expected to report to their classroom/homeroom for attendance purposes. The regular work day will end 10 minutes after the students are dismissed from school, except for weekly short days when the regular work day for teachers will end at the end of the teacher work day. Time during the regular work day not already assigned for direct work with students, collaboration, other meetings or lunch shall continue to be considered preparation time, for the general purpose of preparing for instruction or for additional collaboration with other educators, and teachers will be available as needed. Teachers may also volunteer to substitute during this time, in accordance with the requirements in Article 16, Section 2 of the Parties' Collective Bargaining Agreement.
3. There may be up to and including six (6) special early release days during the year when students are dismissed after at least 3 hours of instructional time. Professional Development occurring on these special early release days shall last for three hours.
4. Teachers will have up to 1215 minutes/5-day week of contact time with students.
- 5A. On weekly short days, professional development meetings will begin 10 minutes after the students are dismissed from school and last no longer than 80 minutes.
5. Teachers may be assigned up to three duties per six-day cycle (which include advisory as an option).
6. Teachers will have one (1) duty-free lunch period/day based on the building schedule.
7. Team teachers will have up to four (4) periods every two (2) cycles for scheduled team and Grade Level Department meetings.

8. Teachers (e.g., SPED teachers) who are regularly scheduled for more than two (2) meetings per cycle will be compensated with additional preparation time for scheduled meetings above the two (2) per cycle.
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10. All teachers will have an average of eight (8) preparation periods/cycle or forty-eight (48) preparation periods over a six-cycle period. Preparation time is defined as time during which the teacher has no direct service time with students. It is the goal of the Committee and the Association to balance the teaching load of all teachers equitably.
11. Homeroom, lunch and passing time are not counted as part of 1215 minutes/week.
12. Team teachers will have up to 20 teaching periods in their core subject per cycle. Multi-team teachers will teach up to 25 periods per cycle. Team teachers will have up to and including 4 additional periods working with students.
13. LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK
14. The Committee and the Administration will consult the Association prior to any significant changes being made to the split between core contact time and OSLT/Academic Responsibilities.
15. The Middle School Oversight Committee, with an equal number of members appointed by the Committee and the Association, will convene as needed for the purpose of overseeing implementation of the Agreement and resolving related problems.

HIGH SCHOOL TIME AND LEARNING AGREEMENT

The following agreement allows that minor changes may be made to the current high school schedule developed by a joint committee of educators from Newton North, Newton South and the Newton Public Schools and completed during the 2018-19 school year, to allow for unanticipated contingencies, such as accommodation to bus schedules, response to faculty feedback, etc., by the High School Joint Oversight Committee.

1. The High School Joint Oversight Committee will convene as needed for the purpose of overseeing implementation of this Agreement and resolving related problems. The Association and Superintendent will appoint an equal number of representatives to the High School Joint Oversight Committee. Both the Association and the School Committee may appoint members of Unit B as their respective representatives, but for purposes of tallying the number of members appointed by the Association and the Superintendent, a Unit B member shall count either as a representative of the Association or as a representative of the Superintendent.

The High School Joint Oversight Committee shall:

- Review the impact of a new schedule and assess its implementation, including the organization and administration of flexible learning time, effectiveness of professional development offered, and other impacts, and make recommendations for minor changes, if needed.
- Make recommendations to the Committee and the Association about any changes to the start and end time for the high school day.
- Make recommendations to the Committee and the Association should any need arise for significant changes to the schedule for the two high schools. Any changes to the high school schedules other than those contemplated in this agreement shall be subject to bargaining and ratification by the parties to the extent required by law.

2. The Committee recognizes its obligation to bargain with the Association over mandatory subjects of collective bargaining, including changes to the provisions of this High School Time and Learning Agreement, to the extent required by law.

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4. Teachers of English, English Language Learners, History and Social Science, Mathematics, Science, Engineering, World Language shall be required to teach four (4) year-long classes or the equivalent. Special education teachers teaching a full load of courses or supporting students in the above subject areas will also teach four (4) year-long classes or the equivalent. All other teachers shall teach five (5) year-long classes or the equivalent.

5. Teachers shall not be assigned traditional duties. Teachers who teach four (4) classes may be assigned academic duties with a maximum requirement of two (2) duties/week depending on teacher workload.

Teachers who teach five (5) classes may not be assigned duties. Unit B members may not be assigned regularly occurring duties.

Academic duties may include but are not limited to administering student assessments, including IEP-related testing, and attending or leading IEP team meetings.

Teachers may volunteer in writing, on a yearly basis, preferably prior to the close of the school year each June, to exchange up to two (2) academic duties for up to two (2) voluntary traditional duties.

Traditional duties shall be defined as hall duty, cafeteria duty, and detention duty.

Teachers who volunteer for traditional duties will send the signed form to the Principal/Vice Principal for assignment.

6. Flexible learning blocks in the schedule will be used for student flexible learning time facilitated by teachers, as well as teacher collaboration time, as specified below:

- The schedule will include no more than 260 minutes of flexible learning time per 5-day week;
- Teachers may be assigned to work with students during flexible learning time up to three hundred and forty (340) minutes every two 5-day weeks;

- Educators (with exceptions noted below) shall be assigned at least 100 minutes of teacher collaboration time during flexible learning time every two 5-day weeks; educators may elect to work up to fifty minutes more every two weeks with students, taken from collaboration time.
- Counselors and psychologists shall be assigned 100 minutes of collaboration time every two 5-day weeks; collaboration time for counselors and psychologists may be assigned during teaching blocks rather than flexible learning blocks in order to maximize counselor and psychologist availability for students during flexible learning time. This time for collaboration is in addition to shorter-day weekly meeting time or professional half days.
- Educators shall not be assigned more than 10 flexible learning blocks, including student flexible learning time and collaboration time, every two 5-day weeks.
- Flexible learning blocks may be used to assign Unit C members collaboration and/or planning time.
- Unit B members will be fully engaged during flexible learning blocks. They will participate in supporting student learning and faculty collaboration during flexible learning blocks on a floating basis.
- Part-time staff will be assigned responsibilities proportional to their FTEs and respecting their part-time schedule.

7. High school students will have a minimum of 990 hours of time on learning via traditional and flexible learning time.

8. The English cap is eliminated. Any FTE reductions resulting from the elimination of the cap would be achieved through attrition and not through a Reduction in Force (RIF) wherever possible. The district and association agree that the goal is for the average class size in the English, Math, History, Science, and World Language departments is to remain at 25 students or less, except in the cases of possible dual enrollment, early college and online elective courses not offered by NPS staff or offered by NPS staff in partnership with other parties (e.g. colleges, online services or collaboratives). Should, by some scheduling issue, an individual academic class in the departments listed above rise to more than 30, a stipend in the amount of \$XX (prorated for classes less than one full year) will be offered to the affected Unit A staff member.

9. The current practice of scheduling at least one high school conference time between 4:30 pm and 7:30 pm will continue.

10. For the 2023-24 school year, faculty meetings and weekly professional development meetings will take place 10 minutes after the last class on the shorter student day each week and will be no longer than one hour and 20 minutes in length. During the 2024-25 school year, a shift of these meetings from after school to before school will be piloted. Starting in the fall of 2024, these meetings will take place before school, starting no earlier than 7:40 AM, and will end 10 minutes before the first class on the shorter day each week, and will be no longer than one hour and 20 minutes. The Superintendent will, after consultation with the High School Joint

Oversight Committee, decide and notify high school staff members by email or similar method by March 31st, 2025 or any subsequent March 31st whether to continue the before-school meeting pilot during the subsequent year(s). If the decision is made to continue to hold meetings before school at that time, the Superintendent will retain the right to shift meetings to the after-school timing listed above if notice is given to high school staff members via email or similar method by any subsequent March 31st of the prior school year.