



Proposal To Leverage School Days

In 2016 the 84th Texas Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 2610. HB 2610 officially amended the Texas Education Code (TEC) §25.081, striking language requiring 180 days of instruction and replacing this language requiring districts and charter schools to operate for a minimum of 75,600 minutes (including intermissions and recess). The bill also allows school districts and charter schools to add minutes as necessary to compensate for minutes of instruction lost due to school closures caused by disaster, flood, extreme weather conditions, fuel curtailment, or another calamity.

It is my belief that this newfound information can be used to better leverage time at San Antonio Preparatory School (SA Prep). With proper application of HB 2610, SA Prep would be able to satisfy Texas Education Agency (TEA) requirements, save on operational cost, and give time back to students and teachers.

Under HB 2610, we are required to operate for a minimum of 75,600 minutes (including intermissions and recess). This equates to 1260 hours. Currently our operations hours from bell to bell are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. With operating for 8.5 hours a day, SA Prep meets the 75,600 minimum requirement at 148.24 days. If we are to round this up, that would be 150 days. Please see table below for breakdown:

- **75,600 minutes** (including intermissions and recess) ÷ **60 minutes** = **1,260 hours**.
- **1,260 hours** ÷ **8.5 hours** per workday (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) = **148.24 operational days**.
- **148.24 operational days** rounded up = **150 operational days**.

With SA Prep's current Academic Calendar, we are currently in school for 182 instructional days, but because TEA only requires we meet the minimum 75,600 minutes as stated in HB 2610, this means that we should have close to 30 days in which we are able to leverage for the improvement of SA Prep.

At our current rate under the current academic calendar and with applying HB 2610, we would meet the 1,260th way before our current last day of school, which is June 6, 2024. Please see breakdown below:



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Month	Hours of Operation: 8.5 (inc. early release days)	Hours Accumulated	Hours Needed to Meet 1,260
August	102	102	1158
September	166.5	268.5	991.5
October	178.5	447	813
November	141	588	672
December	90	678	582
January	159.5	837.5	422.5
February	170	1007.5	252.5
March	124	1131.5	128.5
April	178.5	1310	-50
May	187	1497	-237
June	30.5	1527.5	-267.5
Total	1527.5		

***1,260th hour would be met in April 2024**

As you can see based on the calculations, SA Prep would meet its required hours in April. However, operations would need to continue as the STAAR Test is to be taken through to the end of April.

With our current hours of operation, at the end of January SA Prep would have completed 837.5 hours of instruction, and would only need 422.5 to meet the required 1,260 instructional hours. I am proposing that in February we amend our academic calendar to the benefit of all SA Prep stakeholders (students, parents, teachers, staff and admin).

Amendments to our current academic calendar through the rest of this year could come in many different forms. After surveying staff and reviewing the academic calendars of surrounding school districts, the suggested amendments would be adjustments to the amount of hours in the school day, moving up the last day of school, adding teacher work days and adding holidays to the current calendar.



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The primary purpose for these changes can be summed up in three main reasons:

- Staff and Student retention.
- Staff and Student mental health.
- Earlier release for athletic and extracurricular activities.

Below, you will see updated calculations on hours of instructions to meet TEA requirements that include a reduced school day by 1 hour, teacher planning days, additional holidays, early release days, and a revised last day of school of May 23, 2024.

Adjusting the school day (8:00 - 3:30)

Month	Hours of Operation: 7.5 (inc. early release days)	Hours Accumulated	Hours Needed to Meet 1,260
February	137	974.5	285.5
March	102.5	1077	183
April	142.5	1219.5	40.5
May	125	1344.5	-84.5
Total	1344.5		

***1,260th hour would be met in May**

Attached to this proposal is a proposed amended bell schedule to account for a new 3:30 p.m. release time as well as a proposed amendment 2023-2024 Academic Calendar to start February 2024.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I look forward to your decision regarding this proposal.

Jonathan W. Stanfield

Middle School Teacher Lead

Middle School Social Studies Teacher & Coach

Proposed Amended 2023-2024 Bell Schedule

Proposed schedule is for a 7.5 hour work day to begin at 8:00 a.m. with a 3:30 p.m. end of day.

Classes would be 55 minutes long, with 5 minute passing periods, and a 30 minute lunch break for both Middle and High School students.

Middle School	Time	High School
Block 1	8:00 - 8:55	Block 1
Block 2	9:00 - 9:55	Block 2
Block 3	10:00 - 10:55	Block 3
Block 4	11:00 - 11:55	Block 4
Lunch	← 12:00 - 12:30	Block 5
	12:00 - 12:55 →	
Block 5	← 12:35 - 1:30	Lunch
	1:00 - 1:30 →	
Block 6	1:35 - 2:30	Block 6
Block 7	2:35 - 3:30	Block 7

Proposed Amended 2023-2024 Academic Calendar

February 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29]		

March 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	[4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18]	19	20
21	[22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	ELA/SS STAAR: 16-18 Math/Sci STAAR: 23-25			

May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23]*	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	9	10	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

	8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
	8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
	Teacher Planning Day
	School Day Off
	Early Release
	STAAR
[Start of Cycle
]	End of Cycle
*	Last Day of School

Holidays	
Presidents Day	February 19
Spring Break	March 11-15
Good Friday	March 29
Easter Monday	April 1
Battle of Flowers	April 26
Memorial Day	May 27
Juneteenth	June 19