



1. Rationale

The Simcoe County District School Board believes through its mission statement that successful education for its students requires active participation and consultation with all members of the local school community.

The Board also supports innovation and creativity when the local school leadership works in harmony with the stakeholders in any endeavour to enhance student achievement and success. Consultation, collaboration and strong communication are paramount.

2. Policy

It is the policy of the Simcoe County District School Board to consider recommendations to move from a traditional school day to a balanced school day schedule following the preparation of a plan and community consultation. The plan and consultation must follow the guidelines outlined and have a 60% return rate with 70% in support of the change.

3. Definition

The Balanced Day is a method of organizing the existing student instructional times into an alternative structure. These times are reconfigured into three, 100 minute teaching blocks separated by two breaks of 40, 45 or 50 minutes. The traditional school day is 300 minutes of teaching time with one lunch hour and two recesses (1 x 60 minutes; 2 x 15 minutes).

A balanced day structures the day so that preferred instructional blocks of 100 minutes for literacy and 60 minutes for numeracy are in effect on a daily basis. The structure aligns instructional periods, opportunities for exercise and proper nutrition periods in a consistent framework.

4. Guidelines

4.1 Factors for Consideration to Enter into a Balanced School Day:

- 4.1.1 Initial discussion at the school council level. Council should be provided information which demonstrates both the benefits of, and challenges with the Balanced School Day;
- 4.1.2 Discussion at staff level. Staff should be provided information that demonstrates both the benefits, and challenges with the Balanced School Day;
- 4.1.3 Well publicized school community meetings to present the concept to all parents. In addition, information as to the benefits of, and the challenges with the Balanced School Day should be provided;
- 4.1.4 Use of a board approved survey(s) for staff, parents and students for year end assessment;
- 4.1.5 Collection and analysis of responses by principal, staff and school council to ascertain level of interest;



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- 4.1.6 All parents/guardians shall receive a board approved survey. A 60% response rate will be considered valid and a 70% majority of these returned surveys shall decide the direction. If the 60% return rate with 70% support level is achieved, implementation can occur in consultation with the Superintendent of Education;
- 4.1.7 The data from the survey shall be presented to the school community at an open forum hosted by the Principal and School Council;

- 4.2 A review of the balanced school day shall be conducted if the principal, staff or parents through their representative school council requests same.

- 4.3 Factors for Consideration for Review of the Balanced School Day
 - 4.3.1 Hold a well publicized school community meeting to present the review concept to all parents;
 - 4.3.2 Use of a board approved survey(s) for staff, parents and students for year end assessment;
 - 4.3.3 Collection and analysis of responses by principal, staff and school council to ascertain level of interest;
 - 4.3.4 All parents/guardians shall receive a board approved survey, a 60% return rate with 70% in favour of the change shall decide the direction;
 - 4.3.5 The data from the survey shall be presented to the school community at an open forum hosted by the Principal and School Council.

5. Administrative Procedures

The Director of Education is authorized to establish administrative procedures to implement this policy.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED MAY 25, 2011