

Schedule A Extended Learning Time (ELT)

FAQ for Staff

What is Schedule A ELT?

Schedule A is a model for expanding the school day. It refers to an agreement between the Boston Public Schools and the Boston Teachers Union to add 40 minutes to the school day. The schools the agreement applies to are labeled Schedule A, while the schools the agreement does not apply to are labeled Schedule B.

The school day for elementary will be 6-hours and 40-minutes. The school day for middle schools will be 6-hours and 50-minutes. In addition to the longer day, teachers will get an additional 75 minutes of planning time per week. Of the 75 minutes, 40 minutes are for teacher-directed collaborative planning time and 35 minutes are for individual planning time.

The 40 minutes is *not* a separate part of the day. This is “the new normal.” and you should think of it as one, cohesive school day.

Who works the new day?

All staff will work the longer day. For full-time BTU staff, the new work hours are 7-hours and 10-minutes in elementary schools and 7-hours 20-minutes in middle schools. The highest grade Guild member in each school will have a work day of 7-hours and 55-minutes. Other Guild members are unaffected by the longer day. BASAS members will have a work day of 7-hours and 40-minutes. Depending on the contractual agreement with your union, your base pay will change to reflect the longer day. Please contact your union with any questions about compensation.

What does teacher-directed collaborative time mean?

Teacher-directed collaborative time is a (minimum) 40-minute block of time per week for teachers to work together on topics of their choice. This time is led by a teacher facilitator, and most schools call it Teacher Facilitated Time (TFT).

What is a cohort?

The Schedule A agreement dictates that the Schedule A schools start ELT in phases. Each group that plans and implements together is a cohort. Cohort 1 began the expanded day in school year 2015-16, Cohort 2 began in SY 2016-17, and Cohort 3 began in SY 2017-18. As of fall 2017, all schools that the Schedule A agreement applies to have started their expanded day.

How can a school become Schedule A?

Any elementary, middle, or K-8 school can become a Schedule A school following a change in status. For example, a school that is leaving turnaround or voting to end an autonomous status would become a Schedule A school.

What do schools do with the additional time?

Schools should view the longer day as their new, cohesive school day. It is not “extra” time; it is an increase in school hours so that schools can offer more enrichment, acceleration, and/or intervention based on the needs of their students. The goal is that schools use the entire day to expand opportunities for high-quality learning. Each school does something a little different.

How do schools make adjustments after starting ELT?

Faculty in each school should meet with ILT and the school leader three times per year to review how their plan is going and, if necessary, think through how to make changes. For Cohort 3 schools, this should be built into the plan for continuous improvement and work plan.

What supports do schools receive?

Each TLT has a School Design Coach (SDC) that will act as the ELT point person for Schedule A schools within that TLT. The SDC will be able to:

- Answer questions about Schedule A
- Connect schools to Central Office resources or other schools that can support optimizing use of time
- Act as a thought partner for running effective collaborative meetings, drafting schedules, budgeting, setting school-wide expectations for what success looks like, creating work plans, and developing continuous improvement plan
- Support the supplies ordering process

Each school receives funds equivalent to \$200 per full-time teacher to use on material and supplies related to the school's plan for an expanded day. The count of teachers is used only as a way to determine funding for each school - it does not mean that each teacher is given \$200 individually. These funds are teacher-determined, meaning that teachers have the final say in how the money is used. We encourage schools to work as a team to pool or divide the funds in the best way to support student and professional learning related to your Instructional Focus and ELT plan. The funds cannot be used for reimbursements - all supplies must be ordered through the BPS system.