A. Educational Plan

A.4 School Calendar and Weekly Schedule

A. Compliance with Hours, and Minutes of Instruction for Each Grade Served

The yearly calendar and weekly schedule design for Alhambra Preparatory Academy, hereby referred to as Madison Highland Prep (MHP) will meet the needs of the target population and ensure fulfillment of the school's mission while complying with state laws.

1. Compliance with Number of School Days per Year

Madison Highland Prep will open for the 2014-15 school year on August 5, 2014 and the last day of the school year will be May 22, 2015 (see Table 1). MHP's school calendar is in alignment with local area school districts and particularly with Madison School District consistent with the school's relationship with the district. MHP will provide 182 days of instruction, which is two instructional days more than the minimum of 180 days recommended by A.R.S 15-341-01.

Table 1. Annual Calendar

Madison Highland Prep
2014-2015 Academic Calendar

July						0
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		

August						19
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						

September						21
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				

October						8	10
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		

November						17
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						

December						15
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			

January						19
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

February						19
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

March						10	7
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						21
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		

May						16
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						0
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				

New Student Orientation
First Day of Block
Finals/Last Day of Block
Holiday/Break
Last Day/Graduation

First Quarter		Days 48
August	4	New Student Orientation
August	5	First Day
September	1	Labor Day
October	10	Last Day
October	13-17	Fall Break

Second Quarter		Days 42
October	20	First Day
November	11	Veterans Day
November	27-28	Thanksgiving
December	19	Last Day
December 22-31	January 1-2	Winter Break

Third Quarter		Days 48
January	5	First Day
January	19	Martin Luther King Day
February	16	Presidents Day
March	13	Last Day
March	16-20	Spring Break

Fourth Quarter		Days 44
March	23	First Day
April	3	Spring Holiday
May	22	Last Day/Graduation
		Instructional Days 182

School Events		
August	1	Parent Academy
September	11	Fall Open House
February	12	Spring Open House

Teacher Start/End Dates		
July	28	Teachers Start Date
May	22	Teachers End Date

In-service - No Students	Days 6
All Staff In-service	6

Early Release Days	Days 28
Professional Learning Community (PLC)	24
Teacher In-service/Planning/Grades	4

Student Coursework Testing Days	Days 12
Midterms	4
Finals	5
Finals/Last Day	3

State Testing Dates

State Testing Calendar for FY 2015 is not available.

MHP School Calendar will be modified to accommodate State Testing Calendar.

Special Dates

40th Student Day - September 30, 2014
100th Student Day - January 16, 2015

2. Compliance with Hours/Minutes of Instruction

Madison Highland Prep's (MHP) instructional program will exceed instructional time mandated by Arizona legislation. MHP will provide a total of 1,064 hours of instruction for each grade during the 2014-15 school year, and in subsequent years (see Table 2). This is 344 additional hours or the equivalent of 57 additional days of instruction. Research supports the effectiveness of well-designed programs that expand learning time by a minimum of 300 hours per school year (Frazier & Morrison, 1998; Mass, 2020).

At MHP, a *regular* school day will span from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM with 90 minutes of instruction for each of 4 subjects totaling 360 minutes (6 hours) per day (per quarter = 8 credits per year or 7 credits for students taking algebra 1). This is 120 minutes or 2 hours of additional instruction over state requirements (see Table 2). On *early release* days, the school day will span from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM with 75 minutes of instruction for each of 4 subjects totaling 300 minutes (5 hours) per day. This is 60 minutes or 1 hour of additional instruction over state requirements (see Table 2). Due to the relative close proximity of MHP's classrooms on campus, transition time between classes will be 3 minutes for both the regular and early release schedules.

Table 2. Hours of Instruction Required Per Year (A.R.S. § 15-901)

Grades 9-12	Arizona 2014 Hourly Requirements	Madison Highland Prep 2014 Hourly Requirements	
		Regular	Early Release
Total Instructional Hours/Minutes			
Yearly	720	1064	
Weekly	20	29	
Daily	4	6	5
Daily Minutes	240	360	300

Grades 9-12	Madison Highland Prep Core Content Hours based on 4 or 3 core courses scheduled per quarter			
Total Core Academic Instructional Hours/Minutes				
Core Courses	**4**		**3**	
Schedule	**Regular**	**Early Release**	**Regular**	**Early Release**
Yearly	1064		798.00	
Weekly	29		21.75	
Daily	6	5	4.5	3.75
Daily Minutes	360	300	270	225

Table 3. Daily and Weekly Schedule: Student 1 with 4 Core Academic Courses

	Regular Schedule (M, T, TH, F)			
	Start	**End**	**Total Time**	**Student 1** with 4 Core Academic Courses
	7:30	8:00	30	Breakfast
1	8:00	9:30	90	**Geometry 1**
2	9:30	11:00	90	**English 3**
	11:00	11:30	30	Lunch
3	11:30	1:00	90	**Biology 1**
4	1:00	2:30	90	**Spanish 1**
	2:30	3:30	60	*After School Tutoring Program*, Student Activities, and Teacher Planning Time
	3:00	TBD		Sports
	Total Daily Instruction		**360 min** **6 hrs**	
	Total Daily Core Academic Instruction		**360 min** **6 hrs**	

	Early Release Schedule (W)			
	Start	**End**	**Total Time**	**Student 1** with 4 Core Academic Courses
	7:30	8:00	30	Breakfast
1	8:00	9:15	75	**Geometry 1**
2	9:15	10:30	75	**English 3**
	10:30	11:00	30	Lunch
3	11:00	12:15	75	**Biology 1**
4	12:15	1:30	75	**Spanish 1**
	1:30	3:30	120	Professional Learning Community (PLC) Instructional Planning and Grading
	3:30	TBD		Sports
	Total Daily Instruction		**300 min** **5 hrs**	
	Total Daily Core Academic Instruction		**300 min** **5 hrs**	

Table 4. Daily and Weekly Schedule: Student 2 with 3 Core Academic Courses

	Regular Schedule (M, T, TH, F)			
	Start	**End**	**Total Time**	**Student 2** with 3 Core Academic Courses
	7:30	8:00	30	Breakfast
1	8:00	9:30	90	**Algebra 2**
2	9:30	11:00	90	Intro to Engineering
	11:00	11:30	30	Lunch
3	11:30	1:00	90	**US History 1**
4	1:00	2:30	90	**Spanish 3**
	2:30	3:30	60	*After School Tutoring Program*, Student Activities, and Teacher Planning Time
	3:00	TBD		Sports
	Total Daily Instruction		**360 min** **6 hrs**	
	Total Daily Core Academic Instruction		**270 min** **4.5 hrs**	

	Early Release Schedule (W)			
	Start	**End**	**Total Time**	**Student 2** with 3 Core Academic Courses
	7:30	8:00	30	Breakfast
1	8:00	9:15	75	**Algebra 2**
2	9:15	10:30	75	Intro to Engineering
	10:30	11:00	30	Lunch
3	11:00	12:15	75	**US History 1**
4	12:15	1:30	75	**Spanish 3**
	1:30	3:30	120	Professional Learning Community (PLC) Instructional Planning and Grading
	3:30	TBD		Sports
	Total Daily Instruction		**300 min** **5 hrs**	
	Total Daily Core Academic Instruction		**225 min** **3.75 hrs**	

Table 5: Daily, Weekly, Quarterly Student Instructional Schedule

10th Grade Daily Schedule				
Period	**1st Quarter**	**2nd Quarter**	**3rd Quarter**	**4th Quarter**
1	Geometry 1	Geometry 2	Algebra 2	
2	English 3	English 4	Intro to Engineering	
3	Biology 1	Biology 2	US History 1	US History 2
4	Spanish 1	Spanish 2	Spanish 3	Spanish 4

3. Compliance with Daily Instructional Minutes for Core Academics

Data from Table 2 illustrates that Madison Highland Prep (MHP) will provide a minimum of 798.00 core content hours per year, 21.75 core content hours per week, 4.75 core content hours on typical school days. For example: English 1.5 hours (90 minutes), Math 1.5 hours (90 minutes), Science 1.5 hours (90 minutes), and 3.75 hours on early release days English 1.25 hours (75 minutes), Math 1.25 hours (75 minutes), Science 1.25 hours (75 minutes) respectively. Table 3 and Table 4 illustrate particular combinations of core content areas for different students for the sample sophomore schedule for regular and early release days respectively.

B & C. Rationale for Why the Weekly Schedule Supports Student Achievement

1. Regular School Days
Madison Highland Prep's regular scheduled school day will span from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM with 90 minutes of instruction for each of 4 subjects totaling 360 minutes (6 hours) per day. This is 120 minutes or 2 hours of additional instruction over state requirements (see Table 3 and 4).

2. Early Release Days & Professional Development
Madison Highland Prep will feature scheduled early-release days, which will run from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM. On these days, students will receive 75 minutes of instruction for each of 4 subjects totaling 300 minutes (5 hours) per day. This is 60 minutes or 1 hour of additional instruction over state requirements (see Table 3 and 4). As a result, MHP will be able to offer instructional staff with 28 Professional Learning Community (PLC)/Instructional Planning days during the 2014-15 school year and in subsequent years (See A.5).

During these days, MHP teachers will use 1 hour for PLC and 1 hour for instructional planning. Madison Highland Prep will prioritize quality instructional planning to ensure student academic growth and success. This professional development is reflected in MHP's Strategy IV of the Performance Management Plans.

As mentioned in the Educational Philosophy Section A.1., and the Target Population Section A.2, Madison Highland Prep will utilize *formative instruction and assessment* as its primary instructional

vehicle since it has a proven track record for generating significant growth with all students, and particularly with those who struggle or are behind (Black & Wiliam, 1998b, Popham, 2007). Also as explained in the Educational Philosophy, the MHP education team will participate in ongoing training in the use of formative assessment over a 3-year period through professional learning communities. MHP's administrative team has experienced success utilizing these methods at a previous school that was recognized as one of America's Best High Schools by U.S. News & World Report for 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 (U.S. News & World Report, 2013).

3. Improved Student Achievement through Increased Instructional Time, and Innovative Scheduling

As mentioned, Madison Highland Prep's (MHP) instructional program will exceed instructional time mandated by Arizona legislation. MHP will provide a total of 1,064 hours of instruction for each grade during the 2014-15 school year and in subsequent years (see Table 2). This is 344 additional hours or the equivalent of 57 additional days of instruction. In both regular and early release days, instructional time will be separate from teacher preparation, participation in the school's *After School Tutoring Program*, and student activities (See A.2, A,3 & A.5). As well, MHP's sports program will be scheduled after the academic day as reflected in (see Tables 3 and 4). This is important since students often miss remedial opportunities in order to participate in sports and extra-curricular activities (Kaplan, & Chan, 2011). At MHP, participation in sports will be contingent upon academic success and participation in remediation where necessary. As mentioned in the Target Population Section, and sections A.1, A.3, & A.5 weekly grades at MHP will be tracked by each grade level advisor and will be accessible to parents via the school's Blackboard Engage (Edline) portal accessed through the school's website. Teachers report students who are missing assignments or doing poorly on tests to administration, via email and administration meets with each student individually, in order to determine a course of action aimed at remediating the situation. When academic challenges arise, it will be standard practice for students to stay after school with a particular teacher that day and in some cases over a period of days until the missing work is completed or weak skill sets are remediated(Ouchi, 2009). Therefore, on regular days (see Table 3 and 4) students will be able to participate in one-on-one tutoring with their teachers, attend skill-set specific workshops, meet with peers to work on group projects, and even to do their homework on campus so that when a student encounters difficulty s/he can get assistance from teachers or peers. MHP's administrative team found the *Daily, Weekly, Quarterly Student Schedule* (Table 5) articulated in this section, beneficial to student success at their previous school. In fact, implementation of the practice at the MHP's administrative team's previous school in the second quarter of the 2008-2009 school year resulted in improved assignment completion rates. Further, the failure rate at the school was reduced by 10% over the following two years.

As stated, MHP's academic day will operate beyond instructional hours on regular days to include the additional hour from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. reserved for other academic activities, including enrichment, time to work on scholarships, ACT/SAT prep, college applications, and internships with local area businesses (A.1 & A3.2). The myriad opportunities to support Madison Highland Prep's student academic needs, prior to departing from the school, or participating in the sports program are a key scheduling benefit since many students might not otherwise receive the assistance necessary to support their academic success. MHP will offer a late bus run to support the school's After School Tutoring/Student Activities Program, and to encourage participation in student activities.

MHP's innovative schedule will also make provision for students to receive remedial and enrichment opportunities prior to the start of the school day since teachers will report by 7:30 a.m. each day.

4. Benefits of Block Scheduling

An array of research indicates that block scheduling benefits students, and particularly those students traditionally underserved. Block scheduling provides students with the opportunity to spend more time-on-task; and this is particularly important for students affected by the achievement gap since they frequently require additional time to master the instructional material. Block scheduling has been recommended by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) since it supports Response to Intervention (RTI), which is a classroom-based targeted intervention program, designed to increase students' time-on-task (AZ RTI, Module 3, 2010). Block scheduling results in longer class periods, creating an opportunity for teachers to provide a more comprehensive treatment of instructional content. When students receive, a deeper exposure to content it supports their acquisition of greater conceptual knowledge, consistent with Arizona's Common Core Standards (Race to The Top, 2009). Finally, block scheduling provides more opportunities for planning and professional development, and stronger and better interactions between teachers and students (O'Brien, 2006 & Deuel, 1999).

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