A.4 School Calendar and Weekly Schedule

Ethos Academy: A Challenge Foundation Academy ("Ethos Academy") exists to prepare all students to succeed in college and 21st century careers by providing strategic academic programs, developing exceptional teachers, engaging family members, and partnering with the local community. The school calendar and daily schedule will be optimized to fulfill the mission with an emphasis on literacy, mathematics, and professional development.

A. Compliance with Required Number of School Days per Year [1]

With 183 days of school, Ethos Academy has 3 additional days than are required by state statute (A.R.S. § 15-341.01). The annual school calendar will provide the opportunity to increase student achievement through the following features:

- Extended instructional day and year that exceed all state requirements.
- Three days of new teacher training with an emphasis on academic programming.
- Ten full days and eight half days of teacher, in-service professional development.
- Weekly additional prep period for aligned to PLC teams with a focus on data.
- Monthly Parent Connect events that support parental involvement and communication.
- Quarterly Parent Teacher Team nights that are centered on academic achievement.
- Annual home visits with the primary family members of each enrolled student.

B. Compliance with Required Hours/Minutes of Instruction [2]

Ethos Academy's school calendar and weekly schedule exceed the minimum requirements of number of days per year and hours of instruction per week. The school will provide students with 6 hours of instruction per day in core academic subjects, as opposed to state regulations that require only 4.5 to 5.5 hours based on the grade level.

Figure A.4.1
Hours of Instruction per Year

Grade Level	State Requirement	Ethos Academy
Kindergarten	356	1281
First Grade	712	1281
Second Grade	712	1281
Third Grade	712	1281
Fourth Grade	890	1281
Fifth Grade	890	1281
Sixth Grade	890	1281
Seventh Grade	1000	1281
Eighth Grade	1000	1281

C. Daily Instructional Minutes

Ethos Academy has committed to a lengthened school schedule that provides an increased concentration on Reading and Math. Science and Social Studies incorporate a Reading Integration that further emphasizes these key skills throughout all core subject areas. Overall the school offers 100% more instructional minutes in core subjects for Kindergarten than the state requirement, made possible by offering a full-day schedule. Grades 1-3 will receive 33% times more instruction time in core subjects, grades 4-8 will receive 38% more instruction time in core subjects as required by Arizona law.

Figure A.4.2
Daily Instructional Minutes Comparison

Core Subjects		**K**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
Reading/Language		180	180	180	180	135	135	135	135	135
Mathematics		90	90	90	90	135	135	135	135	135
Social Studies		45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
Science		45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45

Core Subjects		**K**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
Ethos Academy		360	360	360	360	360	360	360	360	360
State of Arizona		*180*	*270*	*270*	*270*	*260*	*260*	*260*	*260*	*260*
Total Differential		**+180**	**+90**	**+90**	**+90**	**+100**	**+100**	**+100**	**+100**	**+100**

D. Rationale for Weekly and Yearly Schedule

Ethos Academy will be serving students that are significantly below grade level in Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics. The daily, weekly and yearly schedule is designed to address the learning levels of incoming students and dramatically improve student achievement for existing students every year. There is a special emphasis on increasing the amount of time a student will be engaged in all core subject matters, especially those related to Literacy and Mathematics.

The school day for all students will begin at 7:45 and end at 3:30. The campus will open at 7:15 and begin offering a free breakfast daily at 7:30. The first fifteen minutes of the day is a homeroom block called “Characters.” Student will engage in a brief discussion and study of a monthly character trait. Core subject classes begin promptly at 8:00 and continue throughout the day in 45 minute blocks. Time is set aside for a thirty minute lunch/recess and an additional fifteen minute recess in the afternoon. Specials will be provided daily and will include Physical Education, the Arts, Music, Health and Spanish. Social Studies and Science will be integrated with Reading in grades K-3.

- **Assessments ("Strategic Academic Programs")** – Ethos Academy will provide all students with a baseline assessment the first week of school utilizing Galileo. This initial benchmark will be the basis for measuring growth by the students in the areas of Reading and Math. In addition, students will engage in two additional Galileo tests towards the end of the first semester and the end of the second semester. Additionally, Ethos Academy will be providing an additional measurement in the first and third quarters by incorporating NWEA testing. This testing tool is implemented at all Team CFA schools and ensures a secondary measurement upon which teachers can monitor student achievement. Response to Intervention is incorporated within the school to ensure all students are provided differentiated opportunities to master learning objectives. Teachers and the Dean of Academic are responsible for developing internal assessments every six weeks that determine the leveling of students within this model. The calendar and schedule take into the account the need for formative and summative assessments, in a timely manner, while ensuring students are engaged in "time on task" learning per the philosophy of the school.

- **Professional Development ("Develop Exceptional Teachers") –** Ethos Academy places a high value on developing exceptional teachers. The calendar and schedule allow for ample time to engage in a formalized process of development (detailed in section E).

- **Parent Programs ("Engage Family Members")** – There are three specific, routine parent programs that are offered throughout an academic year. Every month parents will be invited to a kid-friendly Parent Connect event that takes place for two hours during the evening. It is an opportunity to provide resources to parents in a fellowship friendly environment. The event proactively solicits opinions, suggestions and observations from parents with the goal of improving their involvement in the school. Once a quarter there will be an Academic Parent Teacher Team meeting that provides an update on the academic data of the students and classes. Parents will work with the teacher in identifying strategies that could improve student performance and better inform parents of what is forthcoming instructionally. Once a year a small team of primary leaders will engage in a home visit to all students in an attempt to develop healthy relationships with family members.

- **Community Programs ("Partner with the Local Community")** – Ethos Academy will become a catalyst in enhancing the local community by partnering with social and business leaders. The leadership will work exhaustively to develop "Ethos Partners" that support the school and the families through fiscal and resource support. These entities will be recognized formally once year at the Ethos Partners Dinner.

Figure A.4.3
Sample K-3 Daily Schedule (Year 1)

7:00	Campus Opens / Teachers Arrive
7:15 – 7:45	Student Arrival / Free Breakfast
7:45 – 8:00	School Begins with "Characters"
8:00 – 9:30	Reading Comprehension
9:30 – 10:15	Reading Acceleration
10:15 – 11:00	Language Arts / Writing Workshop
11:00 – 11:30	Student Lunch / Recess
11:30 – 12:15	Mathematics
12:15 – 1:00	Mathematics Acceleration
1:00 – 1:45	Specials (Physical Education, Spanish, Art, Music, Health)
1:45 – 2:00	Student Snack / Recess
2:00 – 2:45	Reading Integrated Science
2:45 – 3:30	Reading Integrated Social Studies
3:30 – 4:00	Student Dismissal

Figure A.4.4
Sample Early Release Schedule (Year 1)

7:00	Campus Opens / Teachers Arrive
7:15 – 7:45	Student Arrival / Free Breakfast
7:45 – 8:00	School Begins with "Characters"
8:00 – 9:30	Reading Comprehension
9:30 – 10:15	Reading Acceleration
10:15 – 11:00	Mathematics
11:00 – 11:30	Student Lunch / Recess
11:30 – 12:00	Mathematics Acceleration
12:00 – 12:45	Student Dismissal
1:15 – 4:00	Staff Professional Development

E. Professional Development

Professional Development is one of the most important aspects of Ethos Academy. There is a two-week (ten days total) Summer Intensive prior to school starting. The focus of this training is to establish a clear understanding of all Ethos Academy systems and expectations. In addition, topics regarding standards identified in the Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards (ACCRS) will be covered to ensure the proper implementation of curriculum, instruction and assessments.

Eight times a year the students will receive a “half-day” that ends at noon. This enables additional time for the staff to meet throughout the year to analyze data as a staff and engage in more specific planning with their instructional teams.

Once a week Professional Learning Communities (grade level teachers) will be provided an additional prep period to meet and discuss data specific to their classes. The intent is for teachers to support and mentor one another with the goal of incorporating strategies that will increase student achievement. The calendar and schedule will be designed so that class time for students will remain as an efficient use of instructional time while enabling teachers to focus on refining their course of instruction.

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[1,2] Adapted from the CASA Academy charter application, approved by the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools January 15, 2014.

Annual Calendar
Figure A.4.5

1-17 No School (Summer Break)
22-24 New Staff Training
27-31 All Staff Training

JULY 2015						
S	M	T	W	Th	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	

3-7 All Staff Training
10 First Day of School
11-13 Galileo Assessments

AUGUST 2015						
S	M	T	W	Th	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					

4 Student Half Day / Staff PD
7 No School (Labor Day)

SEPTEMBER 2015						
S	M	T	W	Th	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			

6-8 NWEA Assessments
9 Student Half Day / Staff PD
12-16 No School (Fall Break)
19 Second Quarter Begins

OCTOBER 2015						
S	M	T	W	Th	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

11 No School (Veteran's Day)
24 Student Half Day / Staff PD
25-27 No School (Thanksgiving)

NOVEMBER 2015						
S	M	T	W	Th	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					

15-17 Galileo Assessments
18 Student Half Day / Staff PD
21-31 No School (Winter Break)

DECEMBER 2015						
S	M	T	W	Th	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 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	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						

1 No School (Winter Break)
4 Third Quarter Begins
15 Student Half Day / Staff PD
18 No School (Civil Rights Day)

FEBRUARY 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	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					

12 Student Half Day / Staff PD
15 No School (President's Day)

MARCH 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	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		

15-17 NWEA Assessments
18 Student Half Day / Staff PD
21-25 No School (Spring Break)
28 Fourth Quarter Begins

APRIL 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	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

4-22 ACCRS Assessments

MAY 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	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				

17-19 Galileo Assessments
20 Student Half Day / Staff PD
27 Last Day of School
30-31 No School (Summer Break)

JUNE 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	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		

1-30 No School (Summer Break)

Blue = **No School**
Green = **Half Day/PD**

Orange = **Assessments**
(white) = **School Day**