A.4. School Calendar and Weekly Schedule

La Tierra Community School (LTCS) will run on a traditional, five-day week schedule beginning in early August and finishing the end of May. This schedule was chosen to align with the local school districts and to offer our target population a five-day school week (as opposed to a four-day week) for working parents who might struggle to find childcare on the fifth day of the week. LTCS anticipates that students enrolled in the school will have siblings at area schools and therefore aligning our calendar with the unified school districts will appeal to our target population. Wednesdays will be shorter days, ending at 1:10 for teachers to have professional development time between 1:10-3:00 weekly. Wednesdays will be used for a variety of PD opportunities including reviewing test results to drive instruction. LTCS will be in compliance with A.R.S. §15-341.01 and will have 180 days of instruction.

First Day of Instruction	Monday, August 8, 2011
Labor Day, No School	Monday, September 5, 2011
Fall Break	Monday - Friday October 10-14, 2011
Veteran's Day, No School	Friday, November 11, 2011
Thanksgiving Break, No School	Wednesday-Friday, November 23-25, 2011
End of 1st Semester	Friday, December 16, 2011
Winter Break, No School	Monday, Dec. 19, 2011- Monday, January 2, 2012
Civil Rights Day MLK, No School	Monday, January 16, 2012
Presidents Day, No School	Monday, February 20, 2012
Spring Break, No School	Monday-Friday, March 12-16, 2012
No School	Friday, April 6-Monday, April 9, 2012
End of 2nd Semester)/ Last day of Instruction	Friday, May 25, 2012

<u>Scheduled Holidays</u>

Labor Day, No School	Monday, September 5, 2011
Fall Break	Monday-Friday October 10-14, 2011
Veteran's Day, No School	Friday, November 11, 2011
Thanksgiving Break, No School	Wednesday-Friday, November 23-25, 2011
Winter Break, No School	Monday, Dec. 19, 2011- Monday, January 2, 2012
Civil Rights Day MLK, No School	Monday, January 16, 2012
Presidents Day, No School	Monday, February 20, 2012
Spring Break, No School	Monday-Friday, March 12-16, 2012

<u>Additional Days Off</u>

No School	Friday, April 6-Monday, April 9, 2012

<u>Professional Development Days</u>

Weekly professional development	Wednesday afternoons all year (1:10-3:00)
Expeditionary Learning PD (fall)	Monday, August 1-Friday, August 5

Expeditionary Learning PD (spring) Monday, May 28-Friday, June 1

Proposed Weekly Schedule

La Tierra Community school will comply with the instructional hours required by A.R.S. § 15-901. La Tierra Community School will meet and exceed all minimum standards for instructional time (hours required per year are: Kindergarten – 356; Grades 1-3 -712 and La Tierra Community School will have over 712 hours of instruction per year).

Hours of Instruction: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Wednesday: 8:00am to 1:10pm

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

Start	End	Total Minutes	Activity
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	30	Literacy (includes morning meeting)
8:35 AM	8:40 AM	5	Transition
8:40 AM	9:40 AM	60	Reading
9:40 AM	10:00 AM	20	Recess
10:00AM	10:50 AM	50	Writing
10:50 AM	10:55 AM	5	Transition
10:55 AM	11:55 AM	60	Math
11:55 AM	12:35 PM	40	Lunch
12:35 PM	1:35 PM	60	Science/Social Studies
1:35 PM	2:00 PM	25	Afternoon Recess
2:00 PM	2:45 PM	45	Spanish (M,W,F) Art/Music (T, Th)
2:45 PM	3:00 PM	15	Class clean-up/Closing Circle

Wednesday **Start**	**End**	**Total Minutes**	**Activity**
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	30	Literacy (includes morning meeting)
8:30 AM	8:35 AM	5	Transition
8:35 AM	9:10 AM	35	Reading
9:10 AM	9:40 AM	30	Writing
9:40 AM	10:00 AM	20	Recess
10:00AM	10:45 AM	45	Math
10:45 AM	11:15AM	30	Music/Movement
11:15 AM	11:50 PM	35	LUNCH
11:50 PM	12:20 PM	30	Science/Social Studies
12:20 PM	12:50 PM	30	Spanish
12:50 PM	1:10 PM	20	Community Meeting (School wide)

All grade levels should be exemplifying active pedagogy in the classroom, no matter if it is 25 minutes of focused study. A full-school Community Meeting would occur once a week (on Wednesdays) allowing for all students and staff to come together to communicate / discuss / share / & celebrate.

By design, Learning Expeditions (long-term thematic, integrated curricular studies) are planned using the AZ Standards and Benchmarks. Further, ELS recognizes the need to teach specific content each day discreetly. For much of the content, it may be taught within the context of the Learning Expedition, and, for content requiring skill progression and development (such as reading and math), time is allocated within the daily schedule for specific and explicit instruction of that content.

Learning at La Tierra Community School gives students compelling reasons to learn to read, write, spell, speak and even solve problems with math every day, all day long. Based on the ten Design Principles and Core Practices of Expeditionary Learning, the La

Tierra Community School approach to learning is informed by current research and best practice.

Learning at La Tierra Community School is not confined to a discrete subject; nor is it addressed only in the course of Learning Expeditions. Rather, it involves a way of thinking, of teaching, and of organizing time and experiences so that learning occurs all day long for all students.

Notice that each day there is time for community. In the lower grades, it is called "morning meeting." For the upper grades (in years to come) it is called "crew." School culture shapes and promotes – or impedes – learning. Time spent building the school and classroom culture supporting learning becomes as important as the time spent on explicit instruction in a particular content.

Professional Development Plan

To implement the Expeditionary Learning model at a high degree, a significant amount of professional development must be offered. Ideally, the training is integrated into the school calendar, consistently implemented throughout the school year. LTCS has chosen to use a standard calendar, which means that students would begin school in early August, get a week break in October, almost two weeks in December, and one week in March while ending school on or before June 1st. Within that time frame, chunks of Expeditionary Learning professional development would happen before the school year begins, intermittingly throughout the school year and right after school concludes. Also, an Expeditionary Learning partnership implies that there would be a School Designer assigned to the school, spending several days on-site assisting teachers, modeling lessons and practices, and offering feedback to the classroom instruction. On-site assistance and development happens throughout the school year both on Wednesday afternoons and during teachers' planning periods.

Through the partnership between La Tierra Community School and Expeditionary Learning Schools, a formal work plan will be created in the spring of 2011 identifying tasks to be completed in order to open the doors to students and fully prepared to meet the student academic and school goals. This work plan will include a focus on the ELS Core Practices:

I. **Learning Expeditions** (the curriculum)
II. **Active Pedagogy** (how the curriculum is delivered)
III. **Culture and Character** (emphasizing the social and emotional needs)
IV. **Structures** (establishing a framework that supports the model)
V. **Leadership & School Improvement** (establishing what data will be collected around progress, how it will be collected, and protocols for empowering leadership)

Learning Expeditions will be created and given to the teaching staff when they are hired. Teachers will be instructed in high quality, high value active pedagogy strategies during the professional development time in July and then supported throughout the school year.

Some teachers will get to participate in the ELS National Professional Development offerings in the summer of 2011. The following is the list of offerings for the 2010-2011 school year:

Expeditionary Learning Schools
Professional Development Offerings
2010-2011

Expeditionary Learning Schools
Outward Bound

3 Day Institutes	Course Dates	Location
Creating Quality Assessments	Nov 4-6, 2010	Kansas City, MO
Creating Quality Assessments	Oct 24-[illegible], 2010	Denver, CO
Designing Learning Expeditions & High Quality Projects	Nov 1-3, 2010	Richmond, VA
Designing Learning Expeditions & High Quality Projects	Jan 6-8, 2011	Kansas City, MO
Designing Learning Expeditions & High Quality Projects	June 13-15, 2011	Phoenix, AZ
Different Strokes for Teachers: Meeting Special Education and Accelerated	Jan 10-12, 2011	Baltimore, MD
Different Strokes for Teachers: Meeting Special Education and Accelerated	Feb 10-12, 2011	Denver, CO
Effect vs Differentiation in the Classroom	Oct 14-16, 2010	Rochester, NY
Effect vs Differentiation in the Classroom	Nov 11-13, 2010	Kansas City, MO
Effect vs Differentiation in the Classroom	April 14-16, 2011	Denver, CO
Elements of Leadership Course	TBD	Denver, CO
Crafting High Reporting	Oct 1-6, 2010	New York, NY
Instructional Coaching for Leaders	TBD	Baltimore, MD
Math High School	Nov 15-21, 2010	Rochester, NY
Math Intermediate	Oct 9-11, 2010	Denver, CO
Math Middle	Nov 15-21, 2010	Rochester, NY
Math Primary	Oct 9-11, 2010	Denver, CO
Science Secondary	Feb 17-19, 2011	Atlanta, GA
Science Elementary	Feb 17-19, 2011	Atlanta, GA
Well Balanced Grades 3-8	Oct 11-13, 2010	Richmond, VA
Well Balanced Grades 3-8	April 3-5, 2011	Portland, OR
Well Balanced Primary Classrooms	Jan 17-19, 2011	Atlanta, GA
Understanding Goal Assessment	Oct 25-27, 2010	Portland, OR
Understanding Goal Assessment	Feb 3-5, 2011	New York, NY
Using Data to Inform Teaching and Learning	July 7-9, 2011	New York, NY
Year 1 of an ELS Classroom 6th grades 3-8	Jan 3-15, 2011	Portland, OR
Year 1 of an Primary Classroom	Jan 3-15, 2011	Portland, OR

4-Day Institute	Course Dates	Location
Primary Institute	July 18-21, 2011	Boston, MA
Secondary Institute	June 28- July 1, 2011	Boston, MA
Secondary Institute	June 13-July , 2011	Portland, OR
Secondary Institute	July 19-23, 2011	Baltimore, MD

Lab Titles	Course Dates	Location
The Human Body	July 11-15, 2011	Colorado Springs, CO
Civil Rights	July 11-15, 2011	Little Rock, AR
Founding of a Nation	Aug 1-5, 2011	Boston, MA

Mark Your Calendars
2011 ELS National Conference
Portland, Oregon
March 3-5, 2011