A.4 School Calendar and Weekly Schedule

A.4.a Compliance with State Statute

According to ASRS 15.901 a high school student must receive 123 hours in a year of each academic course for it to be recognized as a credit. We ensure the academic foundation students need before they move forward by providing 181 days of school for all students, as required by state statute. On regular school days, students are in class from 7:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m., and each academic period is over an hour long. This provides students with 181 hours of instruction per subject at the minimum. On Fridays, the school day will follow a shortened schedule to allow for staff professional development, but classes are still just short of one hour each.

A.4.b Rationale for Schedule

The rationale for the schedule is to maximize time for instruction and to allow students to also participate in after-school activities. By releasing students at 3:45, students can still participate in athletics, clubs, and tutoring within a reasonable time frame. With a small school, students can have passing periods of only three minutes so learning time is maximized. We release early on Fridays because this is most convenient for families and we use this time to engage in meaningful weekly professional development to ensure students are being taught by data-driven, highly skilled teachers. Lastly, the choice of early release on Fridays versus other days of the week is purely pragmatic. The surrounding schools (Phoenix Union High Schools and Roosevelt School District) both release early on Fridays, so for families with students at a variety of schools, the consistency is important.

A.4.c Professional Development

The professional development plan for Phoenix Collegiate Academy High School is robust. Staff arrive three weeks prior to student arrival in order to participate in curriculum planning, culture norming, and operations practice. During this time a significant amount of coaching and teacher development is conducted and teachers are ready for students on day one with gusto. Every Friday is a Professional Development afternoon, providing for two additional hours of principal or district level leaders to engage teachers in professional learning communities, direct support and coaching, or team planning and collaboration time. Throughout the year, there are three full days of professional development following major vacations (Fall, Winter and Spring) where teams evaluate previous quarter's performance, action plan for remediation, and prepare for parent conferences that are meaningful and targeted. At the end of the year, teachers remain on campus one week beyond the end of the school year to participate in curriculum revision and norming as a staff.

Required Exhibit: School Calendar

Below is the 2014-15 school calendar outlining the 181 days of instruction.

PCA HS 2015 – 2016 Calendar

July 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	July 13-31: All Staff PD
							July 29 & 30: Student Orientation
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 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1	August 3: First Day of School
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 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	September 7: Labor Day
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 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2	3	October 12-16: Fall Break
							October 19: PD
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	October 23 & 26- Parent Conf.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	November 11: Veterans Day
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30						

December 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	December 21-31: Winter Break
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	T	F	S	
					1	2	January 1: Winter Break
							January 4: PD
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	January 8 & 11: Parent Conf.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	January 18: MLK Jr. Day
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

February 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	February 15: President's Day
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29						

March 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	March 21-25: Spring Break
							March 28: PD
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 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2	April 1 & 4: Parent Conferences
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 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	May 20: Last Day of School
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	May 23-27: PD
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	May 27: Report Cards Mailed
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	May 30: Memorial Day
29	30	31					May 31: Summer Academy

June 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	June 1-3: PD
							June 1-24: Summer Academy
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			

Required Exhibit: Weekly Schedule with Daily Minutes of Instruction

Below is a sample high school daily schedule. The five core classes include Math, Science, Social Studies, ELA, and a Foreign Language. Due to our college preparatory mission, students will be required to take classes in the core academic areas for all four years of high school. The electives will be Foreign Language, Economics, Art History, Ethics, Survey of Art, and SAT prep. High school students will have a shorter schedule on Fridays to allow for a two hour Professional Development period for teachers from 2:00 – 4:00 pm each Friday.

Sample High School Mon-Thu Schedule

Time	Class
7:30-7:45	Breakfast
7:45-8:51	ELA
8:55-10:01	Physics
10:05-11:11	Spanish
11:11-12:11	Lunch (30 minutes)/Advisory (30 minutes)
12:11-1:17	Algebra II
1:21-2:27	AP United States History
2:31-3:37	Economics
3:405-5:00	Enrichment-Sports/Clubs

Sample Friday Schedule

Time	Class
7:30-7:45	Breakfast
7:45-8:35	ELA
8:39-9:29	Physics
9:33-10:23	Spanish
10:23-11:23	Lunch (30 minutes)/Advisory (30 minutes)
11:23-12:13	Algebra II
12:17-1:07	AP United States History
1:11-2:01	Economics
2:00 – 4:00	**Professional Development for Staff**

In a week, students have four 66 minute classes and one 50 minute class per subject. This is 314 minutes, or 5.23 hours, of weekly instruction in all core content areas and electives. This is the same schedule for all high school grade levels.