A.4 School Calendar and Weekly Schedule

As outlined in the A2. Target Population section, many of our incoming students have not yet mastered essential grade level skills. Pensar Academy believes that additional learning time is paramount to attack these gaps. The academic calendar for Pensar Academy exceeds the instructional days and hours required by the Arizona Department of Education.

Pensar Academy has allocated for 183 instructional days, exceeding the 180 instructional days required by ARS §15341.01. *(See A.4 Exhibit 1)* In addition, Pensar Academy has created a rigorous weekly schedule with the necessary time to support this mission. *(See A.4 Exhibits 2-3. Weekly Schedule for Grades 4-8)*

a. Compliance with Required Hours/Minutes of Instruction

Pensar Academy's proposed calendar will provide 1250 hours of annual instructional time for all grades 4-8th. This exceeds the requirements of ARS §15341.01, which are 890 hours for the4- 6th grade and 1000 for the 7-8th grades. *(See A.4 Table 1)*

A.4 Table 1: Hours of Instruction by Grade Level by Year[1]

Grade	State of Arizona Requirement	NST Instructional Hours*	Increase	In Compliance
4	890	1216.5	360 Hours	Yes
5	890	1216.5	360 Hours	Yes
6	890	1216.5	360 Hours	Yes
7	1000	1216.5	250 Hours	Yes
8	1000	1216.5	250 Hours	Yes

* Includes 33.5 hours subtracted for 4 week Benchmark Testing.

b. Rationale for the Weekly Schedule that Supports Pupil Achievement in Target Population

Pensar Academy anticipates that a large number of students from our identified target population (as outlined in A.2) will not be performing at grade level in the core content areas of math, science, reading, and writing upon entry. In order to close this gap, we have intentionally structured a weekly schedule to maximize instructional time and the student achievement of our target population.

First, the weekly schedule allows for the learning of new objectives taught in Math and English Language Arts (ELA) to be applied through Project Based Learning (PBL) in Science and Social Studies. In Math, Science, and ELA, student learning of the Arizona College and Career

[1] Arizona Department of Education. School Finance Procedures Manual. http://www.azed.gov/hr-payroll/files/2014/03/ge-18_03-12-2014.pdf

Readiness Standards will be delivered through a blended learning model (BL). The BL Model will have an embedded Response to Intervention cycle to maximize each student's mastery of the content. Following mastery, the students will then utilize the new skill in a PBL opportunity. For example, in Math class, the students will learn how to determine probability. In Science, the students will learn how to chart data. In Science PBL, the students will use probability and data charting to create a game. This student learning model forces students to increase their Depths of Knowledge (DOK) and be active learners, which leads to increased student learning and achievement.

Second, the weekly schedule has allocated remediation time for students who have been identified through assessment as below grade level in reading skills and math calculations. Pensar Academy anticipates that many students in our target population will need this option. Students in need will receive 30 minutes per day of tutoring in reading through the leveled reading class. Math Foundations/Goal Setting will provide intervention in math for 30 minutes a day, except once a month in which goal setting will occur with the teacher.

Third, the weekly schedule reflects the allocation of time for intentional electives that align to Pensar Academy's mission and vision. Pensar Academy will provide a host of purposeful electives that foster the 21st century skills of communication, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. Our Student Advisory Course will provide our students with the opportunity to collaborate and connect with students in school families. Our Life Skills course will include Personal Prep, Economic Prep, College Prep, and Career Prep to prepare students with the necessary skills for navigating through a 21st century society. Physical Education/Chess will be taught by the same teacher with PE being offered 3 days a week and Chess offered 2 days a week. Physical Education (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays) will present the elements of team play, nutrition, and exercise. Our Chess Class (Tuesdays, Thursdays) will improve students' abilities to think/plan ahead, weigh options, and analyze concretely.[2]

Fourth, the academic calendar and weekly schedule have allocated time for assessment, disaggregation of data, and strategic planning. Every four weeks, there will be a comprehensive benchmark assessment for students on a half-day Friday. Each student will meet with a teacher to disaggregate his/her data, goal set, and plan for improvement, referred to as goal setting. Goal setting will occur during the Math Foundations/Goal Setting class at Pensar Academy. Each cohort has approximately 25 students. The teacher will meet with six students a week to discuss progress made during the Math Foundations/Goal Setting class. Creating a data driven culture has been proven to be successful in boosting student

[2] Rifner, P. (1992). ``Playing Chess: A Study of Problem-Solving Skills in Students with Average and Above Average Intelligence" Taken on 2/1/2015 from: Http://www.researchgate.net/publication/27232339_Playing_chess_A_study_of_the_transfer_of_problem-solving_skills_in_students_with_average_and_above_average_intelligence

achievement in student groups similar to our target population. [3] Pensar Academy has intentionally built time within the schedule to share the data with the students and other staff members to keep all stakeholders aligned to the achievement oriented culture.

C. Identification of Professional Development Days

In order to deliver quality instruction, the classroom teacher must have adequate training and time to prepare, collaborate, and reflect. In all, our calendar allocates 13 pre-determined full professional development days and 10 professional development data half-days.

To begin each school year, there will be a 10 day Bulldog Boot Camp that will provide our teachers with rigorous training on our culture and instructional process. Prior to the beginning of the second semester, there will be a 3 day Bulldog Teacher Re-Boot Camp to provide our teachers with continued Professional Development opportunities identified through teacher survey, administrator observation data, and student achievement scores.

Every four weeks to coincide with student benchmark days, teachers will receive 3 hours of Professional Development in data disaggregation, remediation, and student growth plans. Direct data from the student benchmarks will drive these Professional Developments along with observation data and teacher surveys.

D. No alternative calendar identified. Pensar Academy will operate on a traditional 5 day per week school calendar with 183 instructional days and 1225 hours of instruction per year for grades 4-8.

[3] Means, B., Padilla, C., Gallegher, L. (2010) Use of Data at the Local Level: From Accountability to Instructional Improvement. U.S. Department of Education. http://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/tech/use-of-education-data/use-of-education-data.pdf

Pensar Academy

2016-2017 School Calendar

July 2016						
Su	M	Tu	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						

August 2016						
Su	M	Tu	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			

September 2016						
Su	M	Tu	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	

October 2016						
Su	M	Tu	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					

November 2016						
Su	M	Tu	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			

December 2016						
Su	M	Tu	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 2017						
Su	M	Tu	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				

February 2017						
Su	M	Tu	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				

March 2017						
Su	M	Tu	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	

April 2017						
Su	M	Tu	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						

May 2017						
Su	M	Tu	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			

June 2017						
Su	M	Tu	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	

- Meet the Teacher Night
- First and Last Day of School
- Capstone Project Presentations
- College Field Trips
- Holiday / Break (no school for staff & students)
- Teacher Training (no school for students)
- 4 week Assessments/Early Release Days

2016-17 Academic Calendar Details

July 2016

25th: Teachers Report/Bulldog Boot Camp

August 2016

3rd: Meet the Teacher Night

8th: Students Report-First Day of School

September 2016

2nd: Benchmark 1

5th: College Field Trip #1

30th: Benchmark 2

October 2016

6th: Celebration of Learning

10-14th: Fall Break

November 2016

4th: Benchmark 3

11th: Veterans' Day

21-25th: Thanksgiving Break

December 2016

9th: Benchmark 4

20th: Celebration of Learning-Capstone Projects

21st-: Winter Break Begins (Staff and Students)

January 2017

4-6th: Teacher Re-Boot Camp (Students Off)

27th: Benchmark 5

February 2017

6th: College Field Trip #2

24th: Benchmark 6

March 2017

16th: Celebration of Learning-Capstone Projects

20-24th: Spring Break

31st: Benchmark 7

April 2017

28th: Benchmark 8

May 2017

18th: Celebration of Learning-Capstone Projects

25-26th: Benchmark 9, Final Assessments

29th: Memorial Day Observance

31st: Last Day of School

***Total Number of School Days in Session**: 183*

***Professional Development Days**: 13*

***Benchmark/Early Release Days**: 10*

A.4 Exhibit 2. Weekly Schedule for Grades 4-8

Time	Cohort 1	Daily Instruction Minutes	Time	Cohort 2	Daily Instruction Minutes
7:30-8:00am	Campus Opened/Breakfast		7:30-8:00am	Campus Opened/Breakfast	
8:00-8:20	Student Advisory	20	8:00-8:20	Student Advisory	20
8:20-8:25	Transition		8:20-8:25	Transition	
8:25-9:25	English Language Arts	60	8:25-9:25	Math	60
9:25-9:55	Leveled Reading Class	30	9:25-10:05	Science	40
9:55-10:55	Social Studies (PBL)	60	10:05-10:55	Science (PBL)	50
10:55-11:25	Life Skills	30	10:55-11:25	Life Skills	30
11:25-12:05	Lunch/Transition		11:25-12:05	Lunch/Transition	
12:05-1:05	Math	60	12:05-1:05	English Language Arts	60
1:05-1:45	Science	40	1:05-1:35	Leveled Reading Class	30
1:45-2:35	Science (PBL)	50	1:35-2:35	Social Studies (PBL)	60
2:35-3:05	Goal Tracking/Math Foundations	30	2:35-3:05	Physical Education/Chess	30
3:05-3:35	Physical Education/Chess	30	3:05-3:35	Goal Tracking/Math Foundations	30
		410			410

A.4 Exhibit C. Half-Day Homeroom Benchmark Schedule for Grades 4-8

Time	Friday Benchmark Testing (monthly)
7:30-8:00am	Campus Opened/Breakfast
8:00-8:20	Student Advisory
8:20-9:20	English Language Arts Benchmark
9:20-9:25	Brain Break
9:25-10:25	Math Benchmark
10:25-10:30	Brain Break
10:30-11:30	Science Benchmark
11:30-12:00pm	Lunch
12:00	Student Dismissal
1:00-4:00pm	Teacher Data Dig/Professional Development