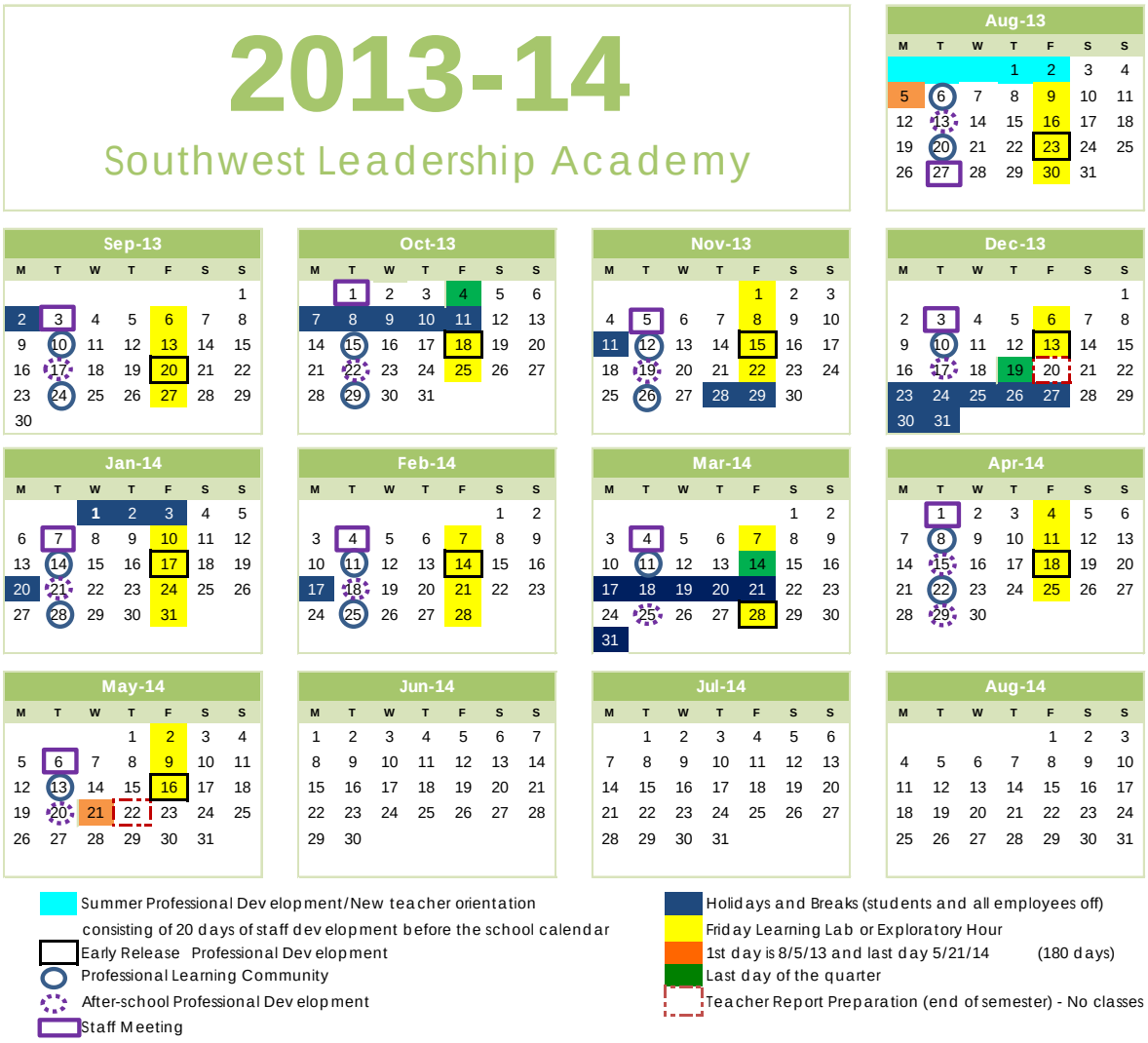
A.4 School Calendar and Weekly Schedule

Southwest Leadership Academy's school calendar will follow 180 days of instruction (pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes §15-341.01). The 2013-2014 calendar below illustrates the number of early release days (10) and scheduled holidays and additional days off (27). School will start on August 5, 2013 and will end on May 21, 2014.

While SLA is a 180-day school, the school offers additional services and support. As discussed previously in Section A.3, the Behavioral Mentors will work year-round to mentor and support the SLA students – even during the summer months. In addition, students will benefit from an Orientation Program at the beginning weeks of school to learn the school's behavioral and academic expectations.



Compliance with Hours/Minutes of Instruction

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes §15-901, high schools must have a total of at least seven hundred twenty hours (720) for a one hundred eighty day (180) school year. With longer instruction sessions, Southwest Leadership Academy will meet or exceed this statutory minimum. Each grade level within SLA will have the same hours/minutes of instruction.

- SLA will have 180 days of instruction.
- SLA will offer 31.4 hours of instruction per week (see calculation on Table 11). SLA will offer 1131 hours of instruction during the academic year, exceeding the minimums.
- The school day will be from 8:30 am to 4:05 pm four days per week and on Fridays 8:30 am to 3:15 pm.

Core Content Area Instructional Time

- On Monday through Thursday, 60 minutes are dedicated to academic core classes for each grade level. On Friday, 40 to 45 minutes are dedicated to academic core classes for each grade level.
- Twenty-two (22) specific credit hours are required for graduation, for the class of 2014. On average students will take a minimum of four of these courses each semester for a total of 280 minutes per class, per week, for each grade level (9th-12^{th}grade) and content area served.

Professional Development Days

Professional development includes workshops and training on Arizona's Common Core Standards, RtI, research-based instructional strategies, SIOP, content area reading skills and culturally relevant pedagogy.

- Providing three weeks (20 days of training starting on July 8th) of staff development before the school calendar.
- Scheduling an additional 38 hours of professional development a year, including one Tuesday afternoon each month, and 10 early release days within the calendar.

Professional Learning Community

During time for Professional Learning Community (PLC), teachers and administrators meet to review student performance data, determine who is or is not learning, and collaborate to solve problems and improve instruction and student learning.

- PLC will take place every two weeks, as stated in the Performance Management Plan, on alternating Tuesday afternoons.

Weekly Schedule with Rationale

The proposed Daily and Weekly Schedule (see Table 11) supports the target population and student learning in seven important ways:

1. The daily advisement period, Monday-Thursday, will support success as follows: through identifying and addressing problems that students are bringing from the community into the school setting, working with students who are not making requisite progress, completing postsecondary planning tasks, and teaching effective study skills. Daily classes afford frequent opportunities to practice new skills, monitor progress daily, recognize success, and provide timely support where needed.
2. Daily classes allow frequent opportunities to practice new skills, monitor progress daily, recognize success, and provide timely support where needed. The minutes of instruction, which surpass State minimums, will help close achievement gaps
3. Five days a week, the schedule provides Student Assistance time. This provides students with opportunities to receive academic assistance and supports SLA's objective of providing immediate feedback to students about their performance.
4. Breakfasts and lunches will provide nutrition for disadvantaged students as well as incentives for dropouts and truant students to attend school.
5. The later start time (8:30) is supported by research as a method to combat sleep deficits and increase performance. In addition, the later start time is also a strategy to decrease truancy and drop-out rates.
6. Extracurricular activities, Friday Learning Lab and Exploratory Hour help youth recognize their skills and competencies and fosters connections with family and the community—which is essential for providing the broad spectrum of opportunities and supports adolescents need for development and learning.
7. The schedule provides alternating times for staff meetings, professional development or a Professional Learning Community (PLC) after scheduled class times on Tuesday afternoons. Professional development will be offered to provide Teachers with training on Arizona's Common Core Standards, RtI, research-based instructional strategies, SIOP, content area reading skills and culturally relevant pedagogy. Within our PLC, the agendas will allow time for Teachers to review student assessment data, develop a deeper understanding of student learning and collaborate in order to enhance instructional efficacy and ensure that all students learn.
8. Afternoons on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays are reserved for other teacher meetings (i.e., RtI team meetings, parent conferences, coaching sessions with a mentor teacher or the Instructional Leader, IEP meetings) and additional teacher planning time.

Table 11: Daily and Weekly Schedule

Monday - Thursday					
	Start	**End**	**Total Time**	**Passing Period**	
	8:00	8:25		0:05	Breakfast, student assistance; Teacher day begins
1	8:30	9:30	0:60	0:05	Academic Core
2	9:35	10:35	0:60	0:05	Academic Core
3	10:40	11:40	0:60	0:05	Academic Core
4	11:45	12:15	0:30	0:05	Lunch/advisement/class
5	12:20	12:50	0:30	0:05	Lunch/advisement/class
6	12:55	1:55	0:60	0:05	Core or Electives
7	2:00	3:00	0:60	0:05	Academic Core or Electives
8	3:05	4:05	0:60	0:05	Academic Core or Electives
					Extracurricular Activities/After School Activities
Total Instruction (Mon-Th)			**390 min.**		

Friday					
	Start	**End**	**Total Time**	**Passing Period**	
	8:00	8:25		0:05	Breakfast and student assistance time; Teacher day begins
1	8:30	9:10	0:40	0:05	Academic Core
2	9:15	9:55	0:40	0:05	Academic Core
3	10:00	10:40	0:40	0:05	Academic Core
4	10:45	11:25	0:40	0:05	Core or Elective
5	11:30	12:15	0:45	0:05	Lunch or Academic Core
6	12:20	1:05	0:45	0:05	Lunch or Academic Core
7	1:10	1:50	0:40	0:05	Academic Core
	1:55	3:15	1:20	0:05	Friday Learning Lab or Exploratory Hour Activity
					Extracurricular Activities/After School Activities
Total Instruction for Fri.			**325 min.**		
Note: Instruction time (exclusive of lunch) is calculated based on 390 minutes times four (4) days a week (Mon-Thurs) for a total of 1,560 minutes. On Friday, the Instruction time (exclusive of lunch) is 325 minutes. Monday-Thursday is added to Friday for a grand total (1,560 + 325) of 1,885 minutes, or 31.4 hours per week.					

Table 12 provides a daily schedule for a typical Teacher. The Teacher's schedule for Monday through Friday includes 30 minutes before school for planning or to provide students with assistance. Teachers also have a one-hour planning period. Tuesday afternoons are reserved for staff meetings, professional development or PLC. Other weekday afternoons are reserved for IEP

meetings, RtI meetings, parent conferences (when needed), teacher coaching sessions and additional instructional planning time:

Table 12: Teacher Daily Schedule

Monday-Thursday			
	Start	**End**	
	8:00	8:25	Teacher day begins: planning, student assistance
1	8:30	9:30	Academic Core
2	9:35	10:35	Planning
3	10:40	11:40	Academic Core
4	11:45	12:15	Lunch/advisement/class
5	12:20	12:50	Lunch/advisement/class
6	12:55	1:55	Academic Core or Elective
7	2:00	3:00	Academic Core or Elective
8	3:05	4:05	Academic Core or Elective
	4:10	5:00	Staff Meetings/Professional Development/PLC (Tuesday); IEP meetings, RtI meetings, parent meetings, additional planning time.

			Friday
	Start	**End**	
	8:00	8:25	Teacher day begins; planning and student assistance time
1	**8:30**	9:10	Academic Core
2	**9:15**	9:55	Academic Core
3	**10:00**	10:40	Academic Core
4	**10:45**	11:25	Core or Elective
5	**11:30**	12:15	Lunch or Academic Core
6	**12:20**	1:05	Lunch or Academic Core
7	**1:10**	1:50	Academic Core
8	**1:55**	3:15	Friday Learning Lab or Exploratory Hour Activity
	3:20	5:00	IEP meetings, RtI meetings, parent meetings, additional planning time

On Fridays, students will go to all of their classes, but they will not have Advisement.

Tables 13-14 show daily schedules for two different students. These tables also demonstrate the courses and electives available.

Table 13: Student Daily Schedules: Student 1

Monday-Thursday			
	Start	**End**	
	8:00	8:25	Breakfast break; Time for students who need extra assistance
1	8:30	9:30	Earth Science
2	9:35	10:35	Algebra I
3	10:40	11:40	Comp & Lit I
4	11:45	12:15	Lunch
5	12:20	12:50	Advisement
6	12:55	1:55	Career Exploration
7	2:00	3:00	Physical Education
8	3:05	4:05	World History/Geography
			Extracurricular Activities/After School Activities

			Friday
	Start	**End**	
	8:00	8:25	Breakfast break; Time for students who need extra assistance
1	8:30	9:10	Earth Science
2	9:15	9:55	Algebra I
3	10:00	10:40	Comp and Lit I
4	10:45	11:25	Physical Education
5	11:30	12:15	Lunch
6	12:20	1:05	Career Exploration
7	1:10	1:50	World History/Geography
8	1:55	3:15	Friday Learning Lab or Exploratory Hour
			Extracurricular Activities/After School Activities

Table 14: Student Daily Schedules: Student 2

Monday-Thursday			
	Start	**End**	
	8:00	8:25	Breakfast break; Time for students who need extra assistance
1	8:30	9:30	Intro to Information Technology
2	9:35	10:35	American History
3	10:40	11:40	Biology
4	11:45	12:15	Advisement
5	12:20	12:50	Lunch
6	12:55	1:55	Comp and Lit II
7	2:00	3:00	Geometry
8	3:05	4:05	World History/Geography
			Friday
	Start	**End**	
	8:00	8:25	Breakfast break; Time for students who need extra assistance
1	8:30	9:10	Intro to Information Technology
2	9:15	9:55	American History
3	10:00	10:40	Biology
4	10:45	11:25	Comp and Lit II
5	11:30	12:15	Geometry
6	12:20	1:05	Lunch
7	1:10	1:50	World History/Geography
8	1:55	3:15	Friday Learning Lab or Exploratory Hour
			Extracurricular Activities/After School Activities

*****Student 2 has two social studies courses in order to recover credit.