A.4 School Calendar and Weekly Schedule

Synergy Public School exists to ensure that all children experience a challenging and progressive child-centered educational program that fosters a love of learning and empowers students to be productive, caring and responsible citizens that are college and career ready. The school calendar and daily schedule will be optimized to fulfill the mission and our belief that a strong instructional culture will close the achievement gap and prepare students for their future.

With 184 days of school (see figure A.4.5 on page 5 of this section) Synergy Public School has 4 additional days than are required by 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.
- Nine full days of teacher training and professional development at the beginning of the year.
- Early Release Wednesdays for PLC team planning with a focus on data
- Quarterly Parent Connect Nights that support parental involvement and communication.
- Quarterly Parent Teacher Conferences that are centered on academic achievement.
- Annual home visits with the primary family members of each enrolled student.

A. Compliance with Required Hours/Minutes of Instruction

Synergy Public 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 and 45 minutes of instruction per day on full days and 4 hours of instruction per day on half days in core academic subjects, as opposed to state regulations that require only 4.5 to 5.5 hours based on the grade level. (*See Figure A.4.1*)

Figure A.4.1
Hours of Instruction Per Year

Grade Level	State Requirement	Synergy Public School
Kindergarten	356	1121
First Grade	712	1121
Second Grade	712	1121
Third Grade	712	1121
Fourth Grade	890	1121
Fifth Grade	890	1121

Synergy Public School 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. In addition, students will receive character and leadership development daily. Students will receive an additional 90-minute block of reading instruction daily at students' instructional reading level during the Success For All reading block from 8:30-10:00 am. The schedule below reflects that the weekly and daily instructional minutes will be the same for all grade levels K-5. (*See Figure A.4.2*)

Figure A. 4.2
Weekly/Daily Instructional Minutes

Core Subject		K	1	2	3	4	5
Reading		90	90	90	90	90	90
Math		65	65	65	65	65	65
Intervention/Enrichment		30	30	30	30	30	30
English Language Arts		65	65	65	65	65	65
Science/Social Studies		65	65	65	65	65	65
Character & Leadership Dev.		45	45	45	45	45	45
Physical Education (Y1) PE & Arts (Y2 & Y3)		45	45	45	45	45	45

B. Rationale for Weekly and Yearly Schedule

Synergy Public School will be serving students that are working below grade level in Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics based off evidence presented in target population section A.2. 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 8:00 and end at 4:00. The campus will open at 7:30 and begin offering a free breakfast daily. The first thirty minutes of the day is a homeroom block in which students are engaged in character and leadership development by learning Ron Clark's "The Essential 55 rules."[1] Student will engage in a brief discussion and practice the current essential rule. Students conclude the day with a 15-minute community circle giving them a total of 45 minutes a day of character and leadership development. Core subject classes begin promptly at 8:30 with a 90 minute uninterrupted block of reading for students at their instructional level (Success For All). Math, ELA, and Science/Social Studies are taught daily for 65 minutes. Time is set aside for a forty-five minute lunch/recess and two fifteen-minute recesses one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Specials will be provided daily and will include Physical Education in Year 1. Beginning in year 2, specials will include the Arts. (See figure A.4.3)

Early release days will begin at 8:00 am and conclude with student dismissal at 1:00 pm. Students will receive 90 minutes of uninterrupted reading as well as 45 minutes in the core content areas of Math, ELA and Science/Social Studies. Additionally students will have a 45-minute lunch recess. Following the dismissal of students, teachers will participate in professional development and professional learning communities. (See figure A.4.4)

- **Assessments ("Data-Driven Instructional Decisions")** – Synergy Public School will provide all students with a baseline assessment the first week of school utilizing Northwest Evaluation Association Map tests. 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 three additional NWEA tests at the end of quarter one, two and three and finally an end-of-year assessment. Response to Intervention is incorporated within the school to ensure all students are provided differentiated opportunities to master learning objectives. The calendar and schedule take into the account the need for formative

[1] http://k6educators.about.com/cs/classroommanageme3/a/essential55.htm

and summative assessments, in a timely manner, while ensuring students are engaged in "time on task" learning.

- **Professional Development ("Highly Effective Teachers") –** Synergy Public School 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 C).

- **Parent Programs ("Engaged Families")** – Synergy Public School will engage parents in quarterly parent connect nights. Quarterly, parents will be invited to a kid-friendly Parent Connect event that takes place during the evening. It is an opportunity to provide resources to parents in a friendly environment. At the event we will 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 Conference 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 all members of the staff will engage in a home visit to all students in an attempt to develop healthy relationships with family members.

Figure A. 4.3
Daily Full Day Schedule Year 1

Time	Sample Daily Schedule K - 3 (Year One)
7:15	Campus Opens/Teachers Arrive
7:30 - 8:00	Student Arrival/Breakfast
8:00 - 8:30	Character and Leadership Development
8:30 - 10:00	Success For All (SFA) Reading
10:00 - 10:15	Recess
10:15 - 11:00	Physical Education
11:00 - 12:05	Math
12:05 - 12:50	Lunch
12:50 - 1:20	Interventions
1:20 - 2:25	English Language Arts (ELA)
2:25 - 2:40	Recess
2:40 - 3:45	Science/Social Studies
3:45 - 4:00	Community Circle
4:00	Dismissal

Daily Full Day Schedule Year 2

Time	Sample Daily Schedule K - 4 (Year Two)
7:15	Campus Opens/Teachers Arrive
7:30 - 8:00	Student Arrival/Breakfast
8:00 - 8:30	Character and Leadership Development
8:30 - 10:00	Success For All (SFA) Reading
10:00 - 10:15	Recess
10:15 - 11:00	Physical Education/Arts
11:00 - 12:05	Math
12:05 - 12:50	Lunch
12:50 - 1:20	Interventions
1:20 - 2:25	English Language Arts (ELA)
2:25 - 2:40	Recess
2:40 - 3:45	Science/Social Studies
3:45 - 4:00	Community Circle
4:00	Dismissal

Daily Full Day Schedule Year 3

Time	Sample Daily Schedule K - 5 (Year Three)
7:15	Campus Opens/Teachers Arrive
7:30 - 8:00	Student Arrival/Breakfast
8:00 - 8:30	Character and Leadership Development
8:30 - 10:00	Success For All (SFA) Reading
10:00 - 10:15	Recess
10:15 - 11:00	Physical Education/Arts
11:00 - 12:05	Math
12:05 - 12:50	Lunch
12:50 - 1:20	Interventions
1:20 - 2:25	English Language Arts (ELA)
2:25 - 2:40	Recess
2:40 - 3:45	Science/Social Studies
3:45 - 4:00	Community Circle
4:00	Dismissal

Figure A. 4.4
Early Release Day Schedule

Time	1/2 Day Sample Daily Schedule K - 3 (Year One)
7:15	Campus Opens/Teachers Arrive
7:30 - 8:00	Student Arrival/Breakfast
8:00 - 9:30	Success For All (SFA)
9:30 - 10:15	Math
10:15 - 10:30	Recess
10:30 - 11:15	English Language Arts (ELA)
11:15 - 12:00	Science
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch
12:45 - 1:00	Student Dismissal
1:00 - 4:00	Staff Professional Development

C. Professional Development

Professional Development is one of the most important aspects of Synergy Public School. There is a nine-day summer intensive training prior to school starting. The focus of this training is to establish a clear understanding of all Synergy systems and expectations. In addition, topics regarding standards identified in the Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards (AZCCRS) will be covered to ensure the proper implementation of curriculum, instruction and assessments. Summer professional development will serve as the time to train teachers on the expectations for creation of curriculum at Synergy Public School. Teachers will be trained on how to unpack the standards and use the conceptual, procedural, and representational (CPR) document, use of the backward design model for curriculum creation and unit/lesson planning. This process will become the standard and expectation for all teachers as they develop curriculum throughout the school year.

Early release Wednesday's will enable 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 as well as training. During weekly professional learning communities, teachers will engage in examining the standards, student work and weekly assessments to drive the development of upcoming lessons.

D. Alternative Calendar

Synergy Public School does not have an alternative calendar.

Figure A.4.5
School Yearly Calendar

Synergy Public School Calendar
2017-2018

JULY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						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						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		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						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					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						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			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						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					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						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	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						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				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			

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Sept 4- Labor Day
Oct 9-13 Fall Break
Nov 10- Veteran's Day
Nov 22-24 Thanksgiving Break
Dec 21-Jan 3 Winter Recess
Jan 15- Martin Luther King Day
Feb 19- President's Day
March 12-16 Spring Break
March 30-April 2 Spring Recess
May 28- Memorial Day

MARCH						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				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						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		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						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					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

	Summer Teacher Training
	Open House
	First Day of School
	Benchmark Assessments

	School Closed- Holidays
	Parent Teacher Conferences
	End of Quarter
	Last Day of School

	Early Release Days-Teacher PD

SCHOOL HOURS:
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
8:00 am-1:00 pm Early Release Days