A.4 School Calendar and Weekly Schedule

To fulfill the mission of college preparation leading to career success, Western School of Science and Technology: A Challenge Foundation Academy ("Western Tech: CFA") will structure the instructional week and instructional day in such a way as to maximize student learning and academic achievement.

A. Compliance with Required Number of School Days per Year

Western Tech: CFA will operate a 200-day calendar, thus surpassing the requirements of A.R.S. §15-341.01 by 20 instructional days.

The rationale for the extended school year is to meet the learning needs of students in the target community. As described in Section A.2, secondary students in Maryvale currently exhibit low educational outcomes; a longer school year allows Western Tech: CFA to improve those educational outcomes through additional targeted and effective instruction.

B. Compliance with Required Hours/Minutes of Instruction

Western Tech: CFA's daily schedule, weekly schedule, and school calendar exceed the minimum statutorily required hours and minutes of instruction of A.R.S. §15-901.

	Yearly Hours Required for 180-Day Calendar	Yearly Hours Required for 200-Day Calendar	Yearly Hours Required by Western Tech: CFA
Grades 7-8	1000	1100	1201
Grades 9-12[1]	720	792	1201

Table A.4.1 Compliance with Required Hours/Minutes of Instruction

C. Daily Instructional Minutes

Western Tech: CFA requires more daily minutes of instruction than that required by Arizona law.

	Grades 7-8 (M-Th)	Grades 9-12 (M-Th)[2]
Mathematics	45	45
English Language Arts	45	45
Science	45	45
Social Studies	45	45
Foreign Language	45	45
Acceleration	45	45
Elective/Other	90	90
Total Western Tech: CFA Daily Instructional Minutes	360	360
Total Daily	333	237.6

[1] 11th graders complete required off-site internships; these are counted as independent study courses for the purposes of instructional minute calculation and are included in the charts above.
[2] Fridays are early release days for students.

Instructional Minutes Required by Arizona (200-Day Calendar)

Table A.4.2 Compliance with Daily Instructional Minutes

D. Rationale for Weekly Schedule

Section A.2 details the current educational outcomes of secondary students in the Maryvale neighborhood. According to state data, only 76.1% of neighborhood middle school students pass AIMS Math, 54.5% of neighborhood middle school students pass AIMS Math, and 59% of neighborhood middle school students pass AIMS Science. In addition, according to state data, only 54.7% of neighborhood high school students pass AIMS Reading, 30.3% of neighborhood high school students pass AIMS Math, and 21.8% of neighborhood high school students pass AIMS Science.

Western Tech: CFA believes that these current educational outcomes are unacceptably low. The extended instructional day and week ensure that Maryvale secondary students are receiving additional effective instruction, which will contribute to providing students the additional opportunities needed to increase educational outcomes.

In addition, a key component of the Western Tech: CFA program of instruction is differentiating learning for each individual student. Thus, the weekly schedule provides for at least 180 minutes weekly for acceleration (remediation or enrichment) according to the Response to Intervention model for each student.

As a school focusing on the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering, and math, Western Tech: CFA also ensures at least 180 instructional minutes in mathematics, 180 instructional minutes in science, and 180 instructional minutes in STEM-related electives per week.

Beyond extending learning time for students, accommodating for individual differentiated instruction through acceleration blocks, and ensuring significant learning time in the STEM fields, Western Tech: CFA's weekly schedule provides for ample teacher development time on early release Fridays.

These intentional structures in the weekly schedule will support improving pupil achievement in the target population.

E. Professional Development

Not only do the proposed daily schedule, weekly schedule, and school calendar support the academic needs of students in the Maryvale neighborhood, the calendar supports the professional development and growth needs of school staff.

Each Friday will be an early release day for students. Fridays will alternate between "A" Fridays, "B" Fridays, "C" Fridays, and "D" Fridays in succession. On "A" and "B" Fridays, students will only have Humanities classes; on "C" and "D" Fridays, students will only have STEM classes. On "A" Fridays, while not teaching, STEM teachers will have collaborative team professional development time in the morning and flex afternoons, while Humanities teachers will have collaborative team professional development time in the afternoon. On "C" Fridays, while not teaching, Humanities teachers will have

collaborative professional development time in the morning and flex afternoons, while STEM teachers will have collaborative team professional development time in the afternoon. During collaborative team work time, teams will engage in collaborative planning, co-observation debriefs, data analysis, or differentiated professional development sessions. This structure builds in significant collaborative team work time and professional development time differentiated by subject matter.

However, afternoons on "B" Fridays and "D" Fridays will allow for full-school professional development opportunities as needed. These Fridays may be used for school-wide professional development seminars or opportunities for different collaborative teams to engage in horizontal articulation across disciplines.

Figure: Daily Schedule

Below is an example Monday-Thursday daily schedule for a student at Western Tech: CFA. Teachers will have at least one class period for work time in addition to time before or after school.

8:00-8:30		Teacher Work Time A
8:30	Student Arrival	
8:30-8:45	Morning Advisory	
8:50-9:35	Period 1	Mathematics
9:40-10:25	Period 2	Humanities (English Language Arts)
10:30-11:15	Period 3	Humanities (Social Studies)
11:20-12:05	Period 4	Science
12:05-12:45	Lunch	
12:45-1:30	Period 5	Foreign Language
1:35-2:20	Period 6	Acceleration
2:25-3:10	Period 7	STEAM Elective
3:15-4:00	Period 8	College and Career Enrichment Course
4:00	Student Dismissal	
4:00-4:30		Teacher Work Time B

Table A.4.3 Monday-Thursday Daily Schedule

Below is an example of an "A" and "B" Friday schedule for grades 7-10 and 12.

8:10-8:40		Teacher Work Time A
8:40	Student Arrival	
8:30-8:45	Morning Advisory	
8:45-10:00	Period 1	Foreign Language
10:05-11:20	Period 2	Humanities (English Language Arts & Social Studies)
11:25-12:40	Period 3	Acceleration
12:40	Student Dismissal	

Table A.4.4 "A" and "B" Friday Schedule

Below is an example of a "C" and "D" Friday schedule for grades 7-10 and 12.

8:10-8:40		Teacher Work Time A

8:40	Student Arrival	
8:30-8:45	Morning Advisory	
8:45-10:00	Period 1	Science
10:05-11:20	Period 2	Mathematics
11:25-12:40	Period 3	STEAM Elective
12:40	Student Dismissal	

Table A.4.5 "C" and "D" Friday Schedule

On Fridays, 11th graders complete required off-site internships. As independent study time, 11th grade required internships are included in students' instructional minutes. The 11th grade internship course will be coordinated with Western Tech: CFA's community and/or higher education partners and may take the form of a direct work experience with a science, technology, engineering, or math firm or a research project with a university or community college partner. To complete the internship successfully and receive credit, students will have to complete 100 hours of work for their work or research experience, as well as submit a pre-Internship Project and Goal Description, mid-Internship Progress Report, and post-Internship Project and Goal Reflection.

Figure: 2014-2015 Academic Calendar

7-23 Staff Orientation and Professional Development
24-25 Teacher In-service
24 Parent Orientation Day
28 First Day of School for Students
30-31 Diagnostic Assessments

JULY

S	M	T	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

S	M	T	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						

1 Diagnostic Assessments
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Early Release for Students

1 Labor Day, No School
2 Q1 Progress Reports Go Home
5, 12, 19, 26 Early Release for Students

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	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

S	M	T	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	

1-2 Q1 Assessments
2 Last Day of Q1 (48 days)
3 Data Day, No School for Students
6 First Day of Q2, Q1 Report Cards Go Home
13 Columbus Day, No School
29-31 Parent/Teacher Conferences
10, 17, 24, 31 Early Release for Students

10 Veterans Day Observed, No School
14 Q2 Progress Reports Go Home
26-28 Thanksgiving Break, No School
7, 14, 21 Early Release for Students

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	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

S	M	T	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			

22-23 Q2 Assessments
23 Last Day of Q2 (52 days/100th)
24-31 Winter Break, No School
5, 12, 19 Early Release for Students

1-2 Winter Break, No School
5 Data Day, No School for Students
6 First Day of Q3, Q2 Report Cards Go Home
19 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, No School
9, 16, 23, 30 Early Release for Students

JANUARY

S	M	T	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

S	M	T	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

4 Q3 Progress Reports Go Home
4-6 Parent/Teacher Conferences
16 Presidents Day, No School
6, 13, 20, 27 Early Release for Students

11-12 Q3 Assessments
12 Last Day of Q3 (47 days)
13 Data Day, No School for Students
16 First Day of Q4, Q3 Report Cards Go Home
30-31 Spring Break, No School
6, 20, 27 Early Release for Students

MARCH

S	M	T	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

S	M	T	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		

1-3 Spring Break, No School
10, 17, 24 Early Release for Students

1 Q4 Progress Reports Go Home
25 Memorial Day, No School
8, 15, 22, 29 Early Release for Students

MAY						
S	M	T	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						
S	M	T	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				

1-3 Final Assessments
4 Last Day of Q4 (53 Days) and School (200 Days)
5 Teacher In-Service/Data Day; Q4 Report Cards Go Home