



Jean-Claude Brizard
Chief Executive Officer

April 10, 2012

Dear CPS Parent/Guardian:

Based on the input from parents across the district, the Mayor and I announced on Tuesday that all elementary students will move to a 7 hour school day beginning next fall. High school students will move to a 7.5 hour school day with a 75-minute early release one day a week.

The changes to the Full Day reflect hours spent meeting with and gathering feedback from parents from all corners of the city. We are committed to work as partners with parents to make decisions that will boost achievement of all students.

Earlier this year, we presented the SY 2012-2013 calendar, which includes 10 additional days of instruction, moving CPS from the shortest school year in the country to a 180 day year that is on par with the national average. A 7 hour day, 180 year will not only significantly increase the instructional time students spend with their teacher in the classroom, but will allow us to make sure the additional time is quality time. A large body of research suggests that additional time in the classroom can lead to an increase in student achievement. To view the research, click [here](#).

The additional time provided by the Full Day in conjunction with the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), and our new instructional framework, will help improve teaching and learning in every school across the district. The CCSS is a more rigorous curriculum that will better prepare students for college and career. Our new instructional framework will provide teachers with a clear and detailed description of effective instruction that will fundamentally change and improve the quality of teaching.

The Full School Day will provide significant benefits to students across the district, including:

- The equivalent of 40 more instructional days each year for our elementary school students and the equivalent of 21 more instructional days for our high school students.
- Nearly 2.5 additional years of instructional time for students during their K-12 career
- An opportunity to engage in science and social studies every day rather than choosing between the two subjects each day.
- Additional time for academic intervention to ensure students who are falling behind in math and reading can get up to speed.
- Time for elementary students to have a full lunch and recess every day to relax, re-boot and return to the classroom ready to learn.

The Full School Day was also structured to provide benefits to teachers, including;

- Almost two additional hours of planning and professional development time each week.
- Prep time each morning for elementary school teachers so that they can meet with parents informally, prepare for their lessons, and supervise students who arrive at school early.
- An average of 75 minutes for professional development each week for both elementary and high school teachers to help improve teaching to better drive achievement.

The specifics of the Full School Day for both elementary and high school students are as follows:

Elementary Full School Day:

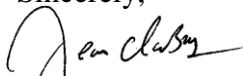
- Elementary students will receive 52 additional minutes of instructional time each day.
- Each day, students will receive 6 hours of instruction and 45 minutes for recess and lunch.
- Students will be in school for 7 hours each day, an increase of 75 minutes.
- Teachers will be in school for 7 hours and 40 minutes, an increase of 85 minutes.

High School Full School Day:

- High school students will receive 46 additional instructional minutes four days a week.
- Students will receive 6 hours and 8 minutes of instructional time four days a week.
- Students will be in school for 7.5 hours a day, an increase of 36 minutes four days a week.
- One day per week the day will end 75 minutes early.
- Teachers will be in school for 7 hours and 40 minutes, an increase of 39 minutes.

With the shortest school day of any major city across the country, adding more time to the day is a critical step toward giving our schools, students and teachers the tools they need to boost academic achievement. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you as we move toward our goal of ensuring that every student in every community has access to a high quality education that prepares them for success in college and career.

Sincerely,



Jean-Claude Brizard
Chief Executive Officer