



Academic Flex Options for Middle School



Many excellent questions have been shared regarding Flex learning time. Flex is a time to provide all students with access to teachers for support and instructional growth. We want to ensure that all students are attending the Flex Learning Time during the scheduled timeframe. **It is not appropriate to excuse students from Flex learning time. All teachers scheduled to a Flex period should be working with students.**

Flex learning time must occur so that students have access to the scheduled teacher and content each day. It is recognized that the best structure for our core and encore courses should look different to best meet the needs of students; ideally students should seek help in courses in which they need it. However, this is not easy to do in a large school setting. Please **DO NOT** change the schedule randomly to try to fix this challenge.

Below we have outlined **two options that schools may consider** for adjusting the middle school Flex learning time. *NOTE: Schools must decide their Flex Period Option as a school, teachers cannot decide independently.*

Option 1: Current Flex schedule

In many cases we are hearing that the published Flex period schedule is working. If that is the case, keep things as they are making sure to include all students in all Flex periods.

Option 2a: Encore Course Focus – Split Flex-Period

Consider scheduling two 20-minute Flex blocks instead of one 45-minute period each day. Students will meet with their A period teacher for the first 20 min followed by meeting with the B period teacher for 20 min, ensuring consistency and contact with each teacher each week. *NOTE: In this Encore Split-Flex Period option, core courses would meet with students for the entire period since they have the same class on A-day and B-day.*

Option 2b: Core Course Focus – Regroup Flex-Period

Core content courses may plan to meaningfully regroup students during the Flex learning time to provide learning support or extension opportunities based on student need. Teacher A may meet with a group of students in need of re-teaching while Teacher B works with a group of students who are ready for an extension. Teacher C then works with the remaining students from the three classes monitoring and providing support while students work on a practice task. This ensures that all students are in attendance during the Flex learning time and that teachers tailor their teaching to student needs.

Thank you for all you are doing each day to support students in this new time. Please continue to reach out as questions arise; we are here to partner with you to bring the best experience possible to students! We would ask that you do not adjust the Flex Period beyond the options offered here.

Please reach out to [Kevin Wajek](#), Director of Instruction, with questions or for further discussion.