

Southern Regional Education Board – High Schools That Work:

Extended Time

Schools in need of improvement often benefit from a flexible daily and yearly schedule that ensures extended learning times for students. SREB has consultants who are experts on multiple formats of scheduling who can assist a school in determining the schedule that best supports attainment of the mission. Transformation schools will need a schedule that accommodates students who need extra support to meet or approach college- and career-readiness standards. SREB works with leadership to develop specific plans that not only provide extended time, but also ensure that those needing extended support participate. SREB uses its vast network of schools to provide best practices for extended time and SREB leadership coaches are trained to lead schools in analyzing their master schedule to find time to address priorities.

Extended time may serve the purpose of providing extra help for struggling students, credit recovery, academic enrichment, or in-school meeting times for staff professional development. It may also take the form of creating common plan periods for teams of teachers who meet to individualize instruction for students.

Another way of extending time is to extend semesters to provide makeup, catch-up, or transition opportunities to improve student achievement in the summer. SREB works with schools to develop and implement summer bridge programs and develop a standards-based learning format for students not meeting expectations.

SREB has shifted the focus in the last year from not just finding extended time, but to a focus on quality use of extended time. This includes the development of Senior Readiness Courses in literacy and math as well as the new High School Readiness Courses in literacy and math. These courses embed two of the key instructional changes – Literacy Design Collaborative and Mathematics Design Collaborative – to get students to accelerate their learning.

The SREB School Improvement Consultant assists in designing the most beneficial extended time opportunities to meet the school's specific needs.