BLOCK SCHEDULE vs. 7 Period Day

Committee Members

- Committee members were comprised of teachers, administrators and central office representatives that have served on both a 7 period day and Block Schedule.

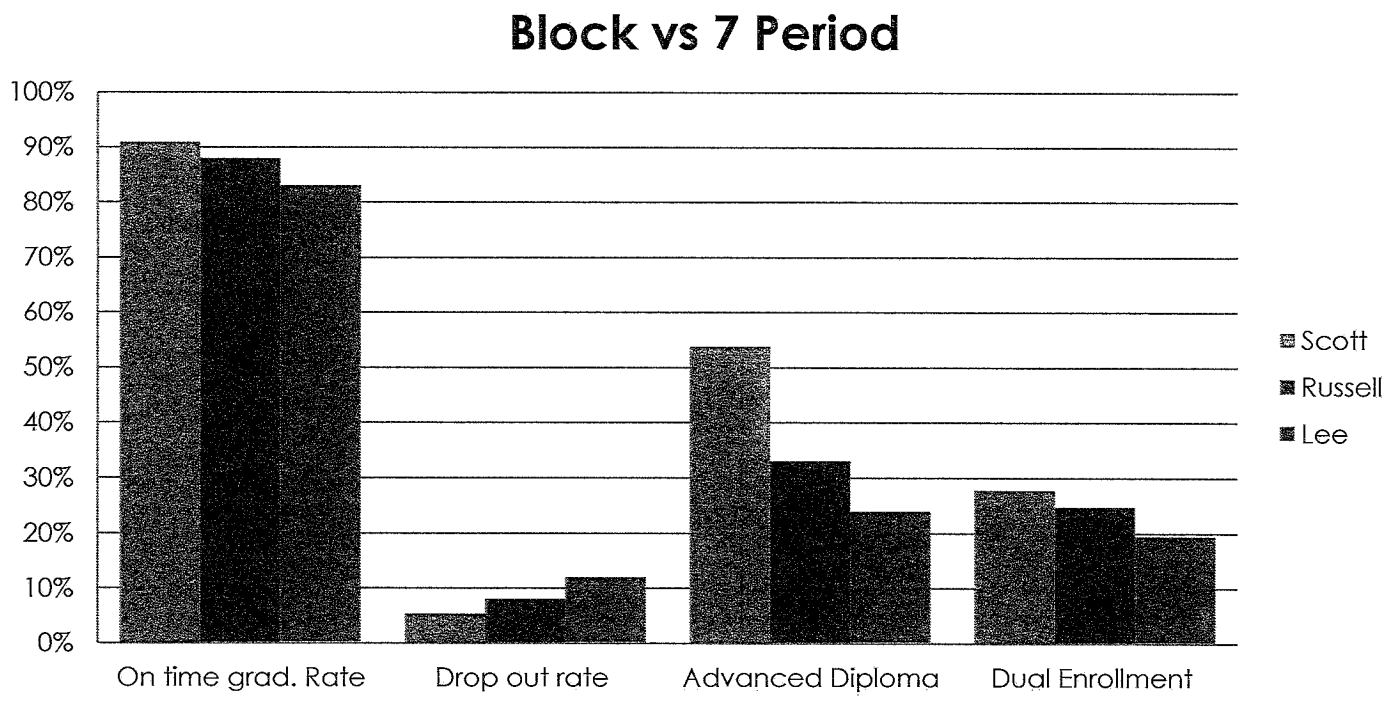
Committee Members

- Mr. Ralph Quesinberry: Administrator
- Mr. Jamie Carter: Teacher/Admin
- Mrs. Joy Davidson: Teacher
- Mr. Terry Fields: Teacher
- Mrs. Lisa Rhoton: Special Education teacher
- Mr. Dennis George: Teacher
- Mr. Greg Ervin: Administrator

Committee Members Continued:

- Mr. Mike Lane: Administrator
- Mrs. Cindy Dorton: Administrator
- Mr. Michael Brickey: Community Member
- Mrs. Jennifer Frazier: Central Office

Data Block vs 7 period



Region 7 Block Schedule

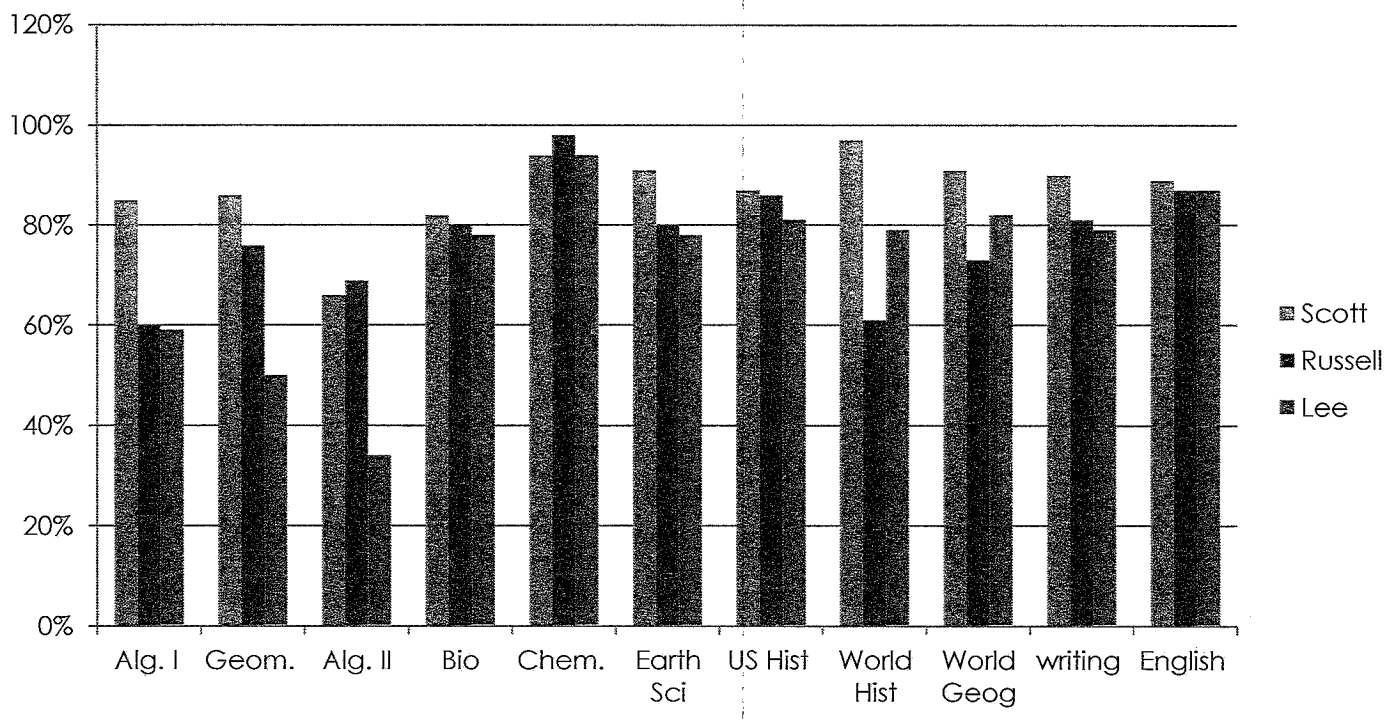
- Scott
- Dickenson
- Smyth
- Norton
- Buchanan
- Washington
- Wise
- Wythe
- Giles
- Pulaski
- Bristol City

[redacted]

Region 7 7 Period Day

- Lee
- Bland
- Russell
- Giles
- Radford: Going to Block Schedule 2015-16

SOL Scores


120%
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
Alg. I
Geom.
Alg. II
Bio
Chem.
Earth Sci
US Hist
World Hist
World Geog
writing
English
Scott
Russell
Lee

History of Block Schedule in Scott County

- Block schedule begun in Scott County approximately 20 years ago primarily because of extremely low text scores in Social Studies and Math.
- SOL test scores were in the 50 to 60 percent range.
- After implementation of Block 4 schedule, Scott County rose to the top of academic

Block Schedule History Continued

- Accomplishments in Region 7 and remained in the top position for many years.
- It was also found that Block 4 worked well for band classes, in-depth advanced classes and athletics.

Scheduling

- A Block 4 schedule fits lab classes such as science, FCCLA, and math classes much better than the Seven Period Day because the 90 minute period allows students to set up labs, complete their work and break down their work stations, whereas the shorter time in a Seven Period Day would not allow this. The possibility of 5+ tests on one day or 5+ projects due on one day would face students when in a Seven Period Day scheduling system.

Computer Labs

- Computer labs can be used much more efficiently using the Block 4 system. With probably no more than four labs in a typical school, scheduling classes to have adequate use of the limited labs would be almost impossible in a seven period day. With the 90 minutes in Block, it is possible to schedule two separate classes into one lab in a single period.

Bells, Safety & Discipline

- When Scott County was on a seven period day, there were 34 bells during the school day. Chaos was the norm. After the change to Block 4, there were only 13 bells during the day. Instructional time in the classroom is protected in the Block 4 scheduling system. Too much time is wasted in the Seven Period Day changing classes, calling rolls and students in the office for tardy excuses. Safety within the school is increased when students are in classrooms rather than in halls changing classes

Bells, Safety & Discipline Continued

- Misbehavior which results in disciplinary actions are also decreased significantly in a Block 4 scheduling system as students are in classrooms rather than in hallways changing classes. Constant disruption of classes changing is difficult for students in a seven period day.

FLEXIBILITY

- Block 4 allows the flexibility to rearrange classes such as social studies, math, & English. When Block 4 was begun, social studies classes were broken into part A and Part B which gave the teacher enough time to go into the subject matter more thoroughly. Test scores shot up drastically and have remained there for 20 years. Periodically, other courses have been adjusted so that instructional time was protected. A seven period day, however, forces teachers to rely more heavily on lecture and insufficient time to do projects or lessons without being cut off by the end of the period

Study Halls

- Study Halls in the Seven Period Day were a waste of time. It was common for study halls to have 30 to 40 students in the classroom with students enrolled in every class in the curriculum. The teacher's job was only to control the students, not help the students with their school work. Again, chaos was evident in study halls. With 90 minutes in Block 4, the classroom teachers have enough time to work with students at the end of the period on any make-up tests/class work/homework/tutoring/etc.

Summer School

- With the current Block 4 system, if a student fails a subject, they are rescheduled into that class the next semester. No Summer School. If Scott County returned to a Seven Period Day, Summer School would have to be reinstated. Summer school brings on much more discussion such as the location of the summer school. Would it be at each of the three high schools or at a central location? Would busses run each day to summer school? Would lunches be provided? Could qualified teachers be found to teach? Financial funding problems would be endless. Scheduling problems would be endless.

Textbook & Dual Enrollment

- The cost of textbooks would be significantly increased if Scott County converted to a seven period day.
- Dual enrollment participation would decrease if Scott County converted to a seven period day.

SOL Testing/Labs

- SOL testing is now done at the end of the semesters. Under the Seven Period Day, testing would be done at the end of the year. Are there enough computer labs to test every student in Scott County at the end of the year? Under Block 4, not all students have to test at the end of the semesters and computer labs are adequate to handle testing.

CTE Classes Block Schedule

- We have more sections of CTE Courses
- We have more students taking CTE
- Students can earn 8 credits per year
- The 232 seniors who completed a CTE class,180 or 78% earned an Advanced Studies Diploma
- Better passing rate on certification test. Test are taken after 18 weeks of instruction over a 4 month span

INSTRUCTIOAL TIME

- With Block 4, classes which were divided into Parts A and B have improved students' test scores dramatically, from the 50-60 percent range to the 90-100 percent range. With the old Seven Period Day, classes were 50 minutes for 180 days which is 9,000 minutes in the classroom if the entire period is used for instruction

Student Responsibility

- With 4 subjects, instead of 6 or 7 a student has less to be responsible for each semester.
- Less homework and fewer test on a particular day.
- With fewer classes to prepare for, GRADES IMPROVE.

INSTRUCTIONAL TIME CONTINUED

- With Block 4, a Part A class would be 90 minutes per day for 90 days which amounts to 8100 minutes in the classroom. Part B would also be 90 minutes per day for 90 days which also amounts to 8100 minutes. Part A and Part B classes consist of 16,200 minutes in the classroom using Block 4 as compared to 9,000 minutes in the classroom under the old Seven Period Day system.

Recent Block Schedule Revisions

- Pre-Algebra scheduled as Part I and Part II (year- long course)
- Algebra I scheduled as Part I and Part II (year-long course)
- Geometry optional Part I and Part II based on previous SOL test scores and principal recommendation.
- Algebra II optional Part I and Part II based on previous SOL test scores and principal recommendation.
- English possible Part I and II for upcoming school year.

Credit Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

- Special Education students can no longer receive modified standard diploma
- Special Education students taking part I and part II Courses will receive 2 credits in the content area in order to help them attain a Standard Diploma.
- 7 period day would not allow for this accommodation.

RECOMMENDATION

- IT IS THE RECOMMENTDATION OF THIS COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE OUR CURRENT BLOCK SCHDULE