

Use of Instructional Time: Elementary

Elementary principals, teachers and staff are responsible for the focus and prioritization of instructional time and curriculum.

- I. Reading, writing, oral language and numeracy will be the primary focus of instruction.
- II. Resources and instruction are variables that each building must be accountable for but are flexible and therefore not defined below. Each are part of the entrepreneurial frame that allows for innovative programming to meet the needs of individual student populations.
- III. Variables that each building must be accountable for but are not flexible are standards, student performance and time.
 - A. A standard is a body of knowledge or level of skill as defined by district proficiencies and state standards. Focus proficiencies have been defined at the elementary level in language arts and math.
 - B. Student performance is defined as an observable and/or measurable body of evidence or knowledge and skills that includes, but is not limited to, state and district assessments.
 - C. Instructional time is defined as time appropriated for instruction and student learning.
 1. Instructional time will be spent assuring that students attain mastery of proficiencies/standards focusing on reading, writing, oral language and numeracy.
 2. Until at least 90% of all students have reached the proficient or advanced level, instructional time will be focused on reading, writing, oral language and numeracy.
 3. The following criteria shall be used annually in determining the appropriateness of including a non-curricular program or activity within the instructional day:
 - a. The program/activity has a tie to a school or district focus;
 - b. There is a compelling instructional reason to do the program/activity;
 - c. There is significant community support for the program/activity;

- d. There is an additional value offered to the school or students that may not be addressed in another way.
- IV. Social studies and science curriculum will be integrated to facilitate and reinforce instruction in the primary focus areas. However, while social studies and science are important to the education of our students, primary accountability will be in the focus areas of reading, writing, oral language and numeracy.

Approved: March 24, 1999