

## Rationale For Changes in the Structure of the High School Day

On April 20, 2006, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signed into law one of the most comprehensive sets of high school graduation requirements in the nation called the *Michigan Merit Curriculum*. (Ref <http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-38924---,00.html>.)

The Michigan Merit Curriculum requires students who will graduate in the class of 2011 and beyond to earn 16 mandatory credits. Prior to the implementation of these requirements, students had more flexible options within a six period day, enabling them to complete district required core classes along with many enriching subjects such as performing arts, life management courses, industrial arts, and other career & technical preparation programs. The new graduation requirements will fill student schedules, reducing flexibility and options.

L'Anse Creuse believes that a combination of comprehensive core content (math, English, Science, and Social Studies) coupled with enrichment courses help prepare students for their adult life experiences. To meet both the State requirements and our goals to provide flexible learning opportunities, we have changed the six period day to a seven period day for high school students.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What are the proposed changes?**

Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, high school students will have the option to schedule up to (7) periods per day to accommodate greater personal choice in their learning.

#### **Why is L'Anse Creuse making these changes?**

To provide greater choice to students, more flexibility to meet individual needs, and increased support options for core classes.

#### **Will the school day be longer?**

No. Students will receive the same amount of instructional time as in 2009-2010, however it will be re-distributed to provide them greater opportunity to take classes of interest or need.

#### **I have heard that some of the required courses increase class rigor. How can students be expected to learn the content in less time per class each day?**

All students learn at different paces and have differing needs. For students who require a bit more time or extended learning opportunities, the (7) period day allows a support class to be scheduled within the regular instructional day without cutting into some of the students' interest based classes such as band or choir.

**What is a support option for core classes?**

These classes are designed to provide additional learning time in support of core classes such as Algebra, Geometry and Algebra II. For students who require a bit more time to master these concepts, support classes provide increased learning opportunities to help students become more successful.

**You indicate that students may get “up to 7 hours per day”. What does this mean?**

Some students may be assigned to extended classes which meet for longer periods of time to help them be more successful in math, science and English. Also, for students taking Career & Technical Classes, which meet for longer than an average period, these students may not receive a full 7 period schedule.

**Have any new courses been designed because of this change?**

**Yes.** Students will be able to take new interest based courses such as Forensic Science, Astronomy, Sports Physics, Musical Theater, Music Humanities, Dramatic Script Writing, Advanced Dramatic Literature, Play Production and Reading for 2010-2011. In addition, departments are working diligently on curriculum to create additional opportunities to prepare them to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Will this change increase costs to the district?**

No. This creative move only increases options for students.

**Will this impact elementary or middle school?**

No. The schedules for elementary and middle school will remain the same.

**If students are earning seven credits, will the total number of credits required to graduate change?**

Yes. The new requirements are charted in our curriculum guide book on our website at: <http://www.lc-ps.org/Curriculum/curriculumGuidebook/>