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Seven Period Day Increased Options for High School Students

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools increases opportunities for high school students for 2010-2011 with the new, seven period day. "With the graduation requirements increasing for high school students in the class of 2011 and beyond, enrichment and career training options became much more limited," states assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, Dr. Keith Wunderlich. "Redistributing the instructional day into up to seven periods allows students to achieve in the required classes without forfeiting their ability to take classes such as dance, drama, culinary arts, business or valuable courses."

The district believed that the changes were necessary based on the new high school graduation requirements, which the State of Michigan expanded to 16 core graduation requirements. "When there are only 24 credits that a student can earn and 16 of these are required, the options for electives and support classes become diminished," states assistant Wunderlich. "We know that elective courses help to engage students in their education and this expanded schedule allows greater choice and flexibility for students."

Districts across the State of Michigan wrestle with the new, rigorous standards and providing enriching and engaging experiences. Outside of creating more options, the additional benefits to students include integration of study support for students in need, creation of smaller average class sizes, opens career & technical education options for students, and allows for more creative scheduling options to increase student achievement. "This was an excellent way to create more flexible options for students without increasing district costs," Wunderlich added. "Students begin scheduling for the 2010-2011 school year soon and because of this new option, additional classes have also been developed to prepare them for the 21st century."