

ETA Update

Elementary Science Update

05-09-2024

Dear Members,

For the 2024-2025 School Year, elementary buildings will need to determine a master schedule for their sites that includes science as a special period. The most recent guidance indicated that science for 4th-6th grade should be in 80 minute blocks. After further discussions between ETA and U-46 leadership, it has been determined that buildings will be able to make the determination on if the science special should be scheduled in 2 40-minute blocks or a single 80 minute block.

Moving forward schools must take the following steps in regards to master scheduling:

- SD and SIP must be presented with two draft schedules
 - One with Science being two 40 minute blocks in intermediate grades (4-6)
 - One with Science being a single 80 minute block in intermediate grades (4-6)
- Schools must work within the staffing parameters that they already have
- SD and SIP must reach consensus on what schedule works best for their building (teachers and students). Decisions must remain consistent across grades 4-6 (i.e. either all 40 minute blocks or all 80 minute blocks)
- Any opposition must be stated at the table and no one individual can supersede the consensus of the committee
- After the committees reach consensus, the SD and SIP chairpersons will meet with the principal to discuss the outcome from each committee and make a final schedule determination as a result of the consensus decisions that were reached
- Principals should input their results via this Google form by May 31 (Updated from 5-17). The results will be shared with U-46 and ETA Leadership
- This work will be done by the 2023-2024 committees and not the newly seated SIP and SD reps

We understand that this is a shift from the original guidance given, and we appreciate your work to support our common interest in implementing the 2023-2027 Elgin Agreement with fidelity.

Thank you,

Barbara Bettis

President, Elgin Teachers Association

Lela Majstorovic

Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, School District U-46