

South Carolina High School Class Schedule Survey Results 2003–04 through 2005–06

In March of 2005, the State Department of Education conducted a survey of public high schools in order to gain information about the types of high school class schedules followed or projected for the 2003–04, 2004–05, and 2005–06 school years, as well as information about ways in which these schedules are modified from a pure form.

Each school was asked whether its schedule for **academic** subjects is strictly traditional (classes meeting approximately 50 minutes daily all year); strictly 4x4 semester block (classes meeting approximately 90 minutes daily for one semester); strictly A/B (classes meeting approximately 90 minutes every other day all year); 4x4 semester block with modifications; A/B with modifications; or traditional with modifications. Respondents were asked to describe any schedule modifications for academic subjects. The survey also asked respondents whether their 2004–05 class schedule was the same as the 2003–04 schedule and whether they projected that the schedule would remain the same for the 2005–06 school year.

Below is a table that provides summary information on only the six main types of schedules (4x4, modified 4x4, Traditional, modified Traditional, A/B, and modified A/B), as reported to the State Department of Education for the 2003–04, 2004–05, and 2005–06 school years:

Schedule Type	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	% Change
4x4	51	39	30	-41%
Modified 4x4	67	79	86	+28%
Traditional	38	38	33	-13%
Modified Traditional	4	4	5	+25%
A/B	24	21	15	-38%
Modified A/B	14	17	21	+50%

In each of the three years surveyed, fewer schools reported pure 4x4 schedules while more reported modified 4x4 schedules, and fewer reported pure A/B schedules while more reported modified A/B schedules. Traditional schedules saw a drop only in the last of the three years.

2004–2005 Schedules

The 202 survey respondents provided the following information about their 2004–05 schedules:

- ◆ 39 (19%) reported a purely 4x4 semester block schedule.
- ◆ 38 (19%) reported a purely traditional schedule.
- ◆ 21 (10%) reported a purely A/B schedule.
- ◆ 79 (39%) reported a modified 4x4 (4x4M) schedule.
- ◆ 17 (8%) reported a modified A/B (ABM) schedule.
- ◆ 4 (2%) reported a modified traditional (TradM) schedule.
- ◆ 1 (less than 1%) reported equal parts Traditional and 4x4, with ninth and tenth graders on a Traditional schedule and eleventh and twelfth graders on a 4x4 schedule
- ◆ 1 (less than 1%) reported equal parts Traditional and A/B with ninth and tenth graders on a Traditional schedule and eleventh and twelfth graders on an A/B schedule. In essence, the two schedules described as having “equal” parts of two different schedules are modified Traditional schedules, inasmuch as the larger part of the student body in each case is on the Traditional schedule (ninth and tenth graders), while the smaller group follows a different schedule (eleventh and twelfth graders).
- ◆ 1 (less than 1%) reported a college model
- ◆ 1 is a new school that begins operation in the 2005–06 school year.
- ◆ Two of the 202 replies were for ninth grade campuses only.

Of 118 total 4x4 block schedules, 79 (67%) make modifications. Of 38 total A/B schedules, 17 (45%) make modifications. Of 42 total traditional schedules, 4 (9%) make modifications.

The most common modification to the 4x4 block schedule is one whereby ninth and/or tenth grade students take core academic subjects (math, English, science, and sometimes social studies) daily all year, generally for 45 to 50 minutes each day. In other instances, math and/or English classes meet for 90 or even 100 minutes daily. Frequently, low-performing ninth and/or 10 grade students or ninth grade students who did not score well on PACT math or ELA are assigned to daily ELA and math classes for the entire year.

In recent years, a highly visible trend for ninth grade schedules has been in the direction of a “Traditional” pattern: daily, year-long exposure (usually for 45 or 50 minutes per class) to academic subject matter in high stakes courses related to preparation for the HSAP exam, which students must pass to earn a state diploma, and end-of-course tests, which affect students’ grades. The same trend toward daily, year-long class meetings is also more and more in evidence for tenth grade schedules for high stakes academic courses. Many of the ninth and tenth grade schedules remain Traditional throughout the day, though some allow the students to take electives on a 4x4 block system.

Not uncommonly, Advanced Placement (AP) courses are “stretched” to last a year in an otherwise 4x4 block system because students taking a one-semester AP course in the fall and not taking the AP exam until months later (during the following spring) are thought to be at a disadvantage and are considered likelier to do well on the exam if they have had continuous exposure to the subject matter for the entire school year up to the time of the exam.

Schools that conduct the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program generally schedule IB classes to meet either daily all year or on alternating days all year.

These trends suggest that for high-stakes academic courses for many students, school administrators consider year-long exposure to the course material preferable to being exposed to that same course material in only one semester. This, in turn, suggests that the schedule developers believe that more frequent and/or longer exposure to a subject will lead to better student performance and/or improved retention of knowledge.

In their efforts to accommodate a wide range of course needs for students, schools sometimes establish quite complicated class schedules. To illustrate, one South Carolina high school has in its projected 2005–06 schedule all of the following elements and more: tenth through twelfth grade science and social studies classes meet daily all year on a Traditional schedule; first-time ninth graders in the Ninth Grade Academy take English I and a companion class called English Essentials and Math I (or Algebra I) and Math Essentials on an A/B schedule; ninth grade *repeaters* take English I and Math Tech I as 4x4 embedded 45-minute classes (90 minutes each for English I and Math Tech I), and if they pass those during the first semester, they can go on to English II and Math Tech II or Algebra I the second semester and catch up with their peers.

(See Appendix A, beginning on page 5, for an alphabetical list of schools and their main schedule types for 2003–04, 2004–05, and 2005–06.)

Projected 2005–06 Schedules

The 202 survey respondents provided the following information about projected 2005–06 schedules:

- ◆ 30 (15%) reported a purely 4x4 semester block schedule;
- ◆ 33 (16%) reported a purely traditional schedule;
- ◆ 15 (7%) reported a purely A/B schedule;
- ◆ 86 (43%) reported a modified 4x4 (4x4M) schedule;
- ◆ 21 (10%) reported a modified A/B (ABM) schedule;
- ◆ 5 (2%) reported a modified traditional (TradM) schedule;
- ◆ 1 (less than 1%) reported equal parts Traditional and 4x4, with ninth and tenth graders on a Traditional schedule and eleventh and twelfth graders on a 4x4 schedule;
- ◆ 1 (less than 1%) reported equal parts Traditional and A/B;
- ◆ 1 (less than 1%) reported a college model.
- ◆ 9 (4%) were uncertain:
 - 1 (less than 1%) reported that it might remain on 4x4;
 - 3 (a little over 1%) reported that they would probably be or might be on a 4x4M schedule;
 - 2 (1%) reported that they might be on an A/B schedule;
 - 2 (1%) reported that they would probably be or might be on an ABM schedule;
 - 1 (less than 1%) reported that the schedule would not remain traditional;
- ◆ Two of the replies were for ninth grade campuses only.

(Refer questions about this report to Bunny Mack at 803-734-8573 or bmack@sde.state.sc.us)

APPENDIX A

Class Schedules (Alphabetical by School): 2003–04, 2004–05, and 2005–06

High School Name	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06
A. C. Flora	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Abbeville	Trad	Trad	Trad
Academic Magnet HS	AB	AB	AB
Academy for Arts, Science, and Technology	AB	AB	Maybe AB
Aiken	Trad	Trad	Trad
Airport	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Allendale-Fairfax	Trad	Trad	Trad
Andrew Jackson	4x4	4x4M	4x4M
Andrews	4x4	4x4	4x4
Aynor	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Bamberg-Ehrhardt	4x4	4x4	4x4
Baptist Hill	4x4	4x4	4x4M
Barnwell	AB M	AB M	Probably AB M
Batesburg-Leesville	4x4	4x4	4x4
Battery Creek	Trad	Trad	4x4M
Beaufort	AB M	AB M	AB M
Belton-Honea Path	AB M	AB M	AB M
Berea	4x4	Trad	4x4M
Berkeley	4x4	4x4	4x4M
Blacksburg	Trad M	Trad M	Trad M
Blackville-Hilda	AB	AB	AB
Blue Ridge	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Bluffton	New 04	4x4M	4x4M
Blythewood (new 2005)	NA	NA	4x4M
Boiling Springs (10–12)	4x4	4x4	4x4
Boiling Springs (9 th – grade campus)	Trad	Trad	Trad
Bethune-Bowman	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Branchville	AB	AB	AB
Brookland-Cayce	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Broome	4x4	4x4	4x4
Buford	4x4	4x4M	4x4M
Burke	4x4M	4x4	Probably 4x4M
High School Name	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06
C. A. Johnson	4x4	4x4M	4x4M
C. E. Murray	4x4	4x4	4x4

Calhoun County	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Calhoun Falls	Trad	Trad	Trad
Camden	4x4	4x4M	4x4M
Carolina Forest	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Carolina	Trad	Trad	Trad
Carver's Bay	4x4	4x4	4x4
Central	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Chapin	AB	AB	AB
Chapman	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Charleston School of the Arts	AB	AB	AB
Charlestowne Academy	4x4	4x4	4x4
Cheraw	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Chesnee	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Chester Senior	AB M	AB M	AB M
Chesterfield	4x4	4x4	Trad
Clinton	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Clover	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Colleton	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Columbia	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Conway	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Creek Bridge	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Crescent	4x4	Trad	Trad
Crestwood	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Cross	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
D. W. Daniel	AB M	AB M	AB M
Darlington	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Denmark-Olar	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Dillon	4x4	4x4	4x4
Dixie	Trad	Trad	Trad
Dorman 10–12	4x4	4x4	4x4M
Dorman Freshman Campus	Trad	Trad	Not Trad
Dreher	AB	4x4M	4x4M
Dutch Fork	AB M	AB M	AB M
Easley	AB M	AB M	AB M
East Clarendon	Trad	4x4	4x4
Eastside	Trad	Trad	Trad
Eau Claire	4x4	4x4	4x4
Edisto	AB	AB	AB
Emerald	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Estill	4x4	4x4	Trad M trimester
Fairfield Central	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Fort Dorchester	4x4M	4x4M	Trad
High School Name	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06
Fort Mill	4x4	4x4	4x4
Gaffney Senior	Trad M	Trad M	Trad M

Garrett Academy of Technology	AB	AB	AB
Georgetown	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Gilbert	4x4	4x4M	4x4
Goose Creek	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Great Falls	AB	AB	Maybe AB
Green Sea Floyds	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Greenville Senior	4x4	Trad	Trad
Greenville Technical Charter	Trad M	Trad M	Trad M
Greenwood	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Greer	Trad	Trad	Trad
Hanahan	4x4	4x4	4x4M
Hannah-Pamplico	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Hartsville Senior	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Hemingway	4x4	4x4	4x4
Hillcrest	Trad	Trad	Trad
Hilton Head	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Hunter-Kinard-Tyler	AB	AB	AB
Indian Land	4x4	4x4M	4x4M
Irmo	AB	AB M	AB M
J. L. Mann	Trad	Trad	Trad
James F. Byrnes	4x4	4x4M	4x4M
James Island Charter	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Jasper County	AB M	AB M	AB M
John De La Howe	Trad	Trad	Trad
Johnsonville	4x4	4x4	4x4
Jonesville	4x4	4x4	4x4
Keenan	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Kingstree	4x4	4x4	Maybe 4x4
Lake City	Trad	Trad	Trad
Lake Marion	Trad M	Trad M	Trad M
Lake View	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Lakewood	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Lamar	4x4	4x4	4x4
Lancaster	4x4	4x4M	4x4M
Landrum	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Latta	4x4	4x4	Probably 4x4M
Laurens District 55	4x4	4x4	4x4M
Lee Central	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Lewisville	AB	AB	AB
Lexington	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Liberty	AB M	AB M	AB M
High School Name	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06
Lincoln	4x4	4x4	Maybe 4x4M
Lockhart	4x4	4x4	4x4

Loris	4x4	AB M	AB M
Lower Richland	4x4	4x4	4x4M
Lugoff-Elgin	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Manning	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Marion	AB M	AB M	AB M
Marlboro County	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Mauldin	Trad	Trad	Trad
Mayo High School for Math, Science, and Technology	4x4	4x4	4x4
McBee	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
McCormick	Trad	Trad	AB M
Mid-Carolina	AB	AB	AB
Midland Valley	Trad	Trad	Trad
Mullins	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Myrtle Beach	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Newberry	AB	AB M	AB M
Ninety Six	Trad	4x4	4x4
North	4x4	4x4	4x4
North Augusta Senior	Trad	Trad	Trad
North Central	4x4	4x4M	4x4M
North Charleston	Trad	Trad	AB M
North Myrtle Beach	4x4	Trad 9/10 4x4 11/12	Trad 9/10 4x4 11/12
Northwestern	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Orangeburg-Wilkinson	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Palmetto	AB 11-12/Trad 9-10	AB 11-12/Trad 9-10	AB 11-12/Trad 9-10
Pelion	4x4	4x4	4x4
Pendleton	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Phoenix Center	4x4	4x4	4x4
Pickens	AB M	AB M	AB M
R. B. Stall	4x4	4x4M	4x4M
Richland Northeast	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Ridge Spring-Monetta	Trad	Trad	Trad
Ridge View	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Riverside	Trad	Trad	Trad
Rock Hill	4x4	4x4M	4x4M
Saluda	4x4M	4x4M	4x4
School for the Deaf/Blind	Trad	Trad	Trad
Scott's Branch	Trad	4x4	4x4
Seneca	AB	AB	AB
Septima P. Clark	4x4	4x4	4x4
High School Name	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06
Silver Bluff	Trad	Trad	Trad
Socastee	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M

South Aiken	Trad	Trad	Trad
South Florence	AB	AB	AB M
Southside	Trad	Trad	Trad
Spartanburg Senior	Trad	Trad	Trad
Spring Valley	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
St. John's	AB M	AB M	AB M
Stratford	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Strom Thurmond	AB M	AB M	AB M
Summerville	Trad	Trad	Trad
Sumter	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Swansea	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
T. L. Hanna	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Tamassee Salem	AB	AB	AB
Timberland	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Timmonsville Comprehensive	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Travelers Rest	Trad	Trad	Trad
Union	4x4	4x4	4x4
Waccamaw	4x4	4x4	4x4
Wade Hampton (Greenville)	Trad	Trad	4x4M
Wade Hampton (Hampton 1)	Trad	Trad	Trad
Wagener-Salley	Trad	Trad	Trad
Walhalla Senior	AB	AB	AB M
Wando	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Ware Shoals	Trad	Trad	Trad
West Ashley	AB	AB	Maybe AB M
West Florence	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
West Oak Senior	AB	AB	AB M
Westside	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
White Knoll	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Whitmire	AB	AB	AB
Williston-Elko	AB	AB	AB
Wilson	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Woodland	4x4	4x4	4x4
Woodmont	Trad	Trad	4x4
Woodruff	Trad	Trad	Trad
Wren	AB M	AB M	AB M
York Comprehensive	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Youth Academy Charter	AB	AB	AB
Governor's School for the Arts & Humanities	4x4M	4x4M	4x4M
Governor's School for Science & Math	College Model	College Model	College Model