Elementary Schedule Guidance

The Kansas State Department of Education has identified four core content areas: Science, Mathematics, History, Government, Social Studies (HGSS) and English Language Arts (ELA). Each core content discipline requires systematic, explicit, scaffolded and differentiated classroom instruction at grade level. This practice ensures that educators provide the appropriate depth and rigor of core content standards for all elementary students.

In order to provide all Kansas students with access to a high quality, standards aligned education, students need to be able to build and activate background knowledge in all core content areas. Science and Social Studies should not be eliminated to garner more time for other content areas as they are worthy of their own explicit instruction and a critical component of knowledge building in reading development.

The schedule of an elementary day should be a reflection of relevant screening and formative assessment data and may vary from day to day. The Kansas State Department of Education is not prescriptive in the number of minutes dedicated to each discipline. Below is the KSDE recommendation based on current research (links provided below).

**Time Recommendations Per Day (Minimum)**

- 45 Minute HGSS Block
- 45 Minute Science Block
- 90 Minute Literacy Block (core instruction with additional time for tiered interventions)
- 90 Minute Mathematics Block (60 minutes core instruction with 30 additional minutes for tiered interventions)

The quality of instruction should be prioritized over the quantity. Effective integration of content areas can make learning more meaningful. Effective integration connects explicitly and clearly to the standards and assesses multiple content standards equally (CCSSO, 2023).

*Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.*
Resources:

- CCSSO (2023). Effective Social Studies Integration in Elementary Classrooms. https://753a0706.flowpaper.com/CCSSOSocialStudiesIntegrationInfographic053023/#page=1

For more information, contact:

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