

Memorandum of Understanding for Piloting Middle School Connection Time

This Memorandum of Understanding will serve as the entirety of the agreement reached between the Auburn School District and Auburn Education Association. All other provisions of the collective bargaining agreement remain in full effect.

Middle School Connection Time is defined as follows:

A period, not to exceed 25-minutes, used to create a community that supports the academic and social emotional growth of every student and fosters a sense of belonging through the guidance of an adult mentor.

Building administrators shall assign students to SLC teachers' Connection time consistent with the needs of the students IEP goals and minutes. To protect student privacy, SLC teachers will not be expected to provide Connection time services in the SLC room to students that are not part of an SLC caseload.

Content of Connection time

High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP)

Facilitation of the High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP) as required by state law, utilizing the Xello platform (or state adopted resources)

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Implementation of district approved curriculum/activities to improve students social emotional and behavioral development. SEL lessons will occur no more than two (2) times per week.

- SEL Lesson (Researched-based structure, framework and/or curriculum - CASTEL, Healing of the Canoe, trauma-informed practices, Character Strong, Second Step, Circles, HealthSmart, etc.)
- Bullying prevention (HIB)
- 7 Practices of Culturally Responsive Teaching connections
- Rotating activities for relationship/cultural building no more than one (1) time per month
- Community service projects as determined by the Middle School Connection teacher

State and ASD Requirements

Middle School Connection time may also be for state and Auburn School District requirements such as:

- Digital citizenship
- Grade and binder checks
- Scheduling
- Academic goal setting/check-ins on goal progress

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Intervention-Enrichment Time

The intervention-enrichment time is for the purposes of assisting student success in academic classes or facilitating clubs/activities.

Implementation

The district will pilot connection time during the 2024-2025 school year. The connection time will occur Tuesday-Friday after the-first period. Connection time will not occur on any days with an alternate schedule such as holidays, assemblies, snow days, etc.

Coverage/Absences

Substitutes assigned to cover staff absences shall be responsible to cover the Connection time assigned to that employee.

Middle School librarians will not be assigned a regular section of Connection time.

If a connection mentor is absent, and no substitute is available, the following will occur in this order:

1. Coverage by certificated staff without a connection class, assigned in a rotational basis that equally distributes duty coverage among all available certificated staff members, including non-classroom teachers (for example, Instructional specialist, title teachers, counselors, librarians, and deans).
2. Coverage by an administrator

Curriculum Planning

Connection Mentors will not be required to plan or produce lesson materials for this connection time. All materials will be provided to Connection Mentors at least one (1) week in advance.

Grading/Documentation

There will be no required grading outside of the Connection time frame. Should specific components of the HSBP require teacher marks, any grading for this time will be for completion only, such as P/F and shall be completed during Connection time. Attendance will be taken.

Planning time

To ensure staff receive their 54-minute planning time, staff shall utilize passing time to regain any lost planning time.

Duration

The parties agree to revisit this agreement prior to the last working day in October 2024 and revise based upon feedback from this initial implementation. This MOU will sunset on June 30, 2025.

Signed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.

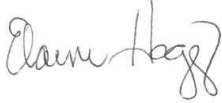
AEA and Auburn School District

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77 FOR THE ASSOCIATION:

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Elaine Hogg, AEA President

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FOR THE DISTRICT:



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Jon Young  
Asst Superintendent of Human Resources