

2026 BLOCK SCHEDULE Conference: Maximize Engagement and Learning (Grades 6-12)



December 7 and 8

Start Time: 9 AM Eastern

(8 AM Central, 7 AM Mountain, 6 AM Pacific)

CEUs and Graduate Credits Available

See page 7 for details

Choose from 21 Strategy-Packed Conference Sessions



Highly Effective, Use-Tomorrow Strategies!



Meet Your Team of Expert Instructors

VINCE MANCUSO is a highly experienced block schedule teacher, national presenter and author. Vince enjoys sharing with other secondary teachers his enthusiasm for making the most of the time in a block schedule to extend and enhance student learning. Audiences regularly praise his powerful and practical ideas, stemming from his own block classroom. You'll leave Vince's sessions with a wealth of practical ideas, ready-to-use materials and activities for strengthening your block instruction.

RHETT OLDHAM is a highly experienced secondary teacher with years of block schedule teaching experience. Recognized as a Gilder Lehrman Teacher of the Year and National Finalist, Rhett is passionate about creating engaging extended period learning environments where middle and high school students will thrive. Rhett's sessions are filled with effective strategies and tools you can use immediately to maximize learning in your block schedule classroom.

JANET CREWS is an experienced secondary educator, national presenter, and dynamic coach who is passionate about helping teachers make the most of extended class time. Janet brings a wealth of classroom experience and shares powerful, practical strategies that are proven to increase student engagement and success in block schedule settings. You will leave Janet's sessions with innovative ideas and strategies you can use the very next day in your block classroom.



Who Should Attend
Educators Using or Considering Block
Scheduling, Grades 6-12



Day One

Keynote • 9:00 – 9:30 am

“Unlocking the Power of the Block Schedule” – Vince Mancuso

Block schedule isn't just about longer class periods – it's an incredible opportunity to enrich teaching and learning. How can we best keep students engaged and fit curriculum into a condensed school year without sacrificing depth or rigor? Explore powerful strategies to structure our time, lessons, and practices to maximize efficiency, engagement, and student learning. Let's kick off two great days together, reenergized and ready to strengthen our approach to teaching in the block schedule!

MORNING SESSIONS • 9:40 am – 12:10 pm

Choose **ONE** Full Morning Session OR **TWO** 70-Minute Sessions • *One mid-morning break*

Full Morning Session • 9:40 am – 12:10 pm

A-1: Differentiated Learning Preferences: Boost the Success of Your Block – Rhett Oldham

We know students benefit from varied learning approaches and ways to show their learning. But how might this look in a block setting? Explore great ways to set up lessons, units, and assessments with options for all students to showcase their strengths and preferences while building on areas of growth. See detailed examples of how you can differentiate based on several major learning preferences within your block schedule lessons, units and assessments.

**First 70-Minute Morning Sessions
9:40 – 10:50 am**

CHOOSE ONE: A-2 or A-3

A-2: Block Learning: Going Beyond Passive Compliance to Active Engagement

– Janet Crews

We're uniquely positioned in a block schedule to unleash student creativity and learning. Level up your block lessons with easy-to-incorporate tweaks to promote innovation and authentic learning. Gain practical strategies to move students from passive compliance to active engagement, immersing them in learning that is meaningful and relevant to their lives. Acquire strategies to help students be more self-directed, independent, collaborative, and creative in your block classroom.

A-3: Avoiding Common Pitfalls in Your Block Teaching – Vince Mancuso

Prevent passive lecturing, ineffective pacing, and engagement drop-off. Learn great ways to structure lessons that balance direct instruction with hands-on learning, utilize transitions effectively, and maintain student focus. Discover practical solutions to maximize instructional time and learning, while creating a thriving block classroom. Sidestep common challenges and make the most of your extended class periods. Learn from real experiences, avoid unnecessary frustrations, and set yourself up for block schedule success!

**Second 70-Minute Morning Sessions
11:00 am – 12:10 pm**

CHOOSE ONE: A-4 or A-5

A-4: Getting Your Students to Own Their Learning – Janet Crews

When students ask us what grade we're "giving" them, they aren't owning their learning. Examine ways you can get students to take charge of their learning with how you structure your feedback and assessments. Instead of an overfocus on grades, shift students' thinking about assessments to progress over time and evidence of understanding or content standard performance. Discover ways to engage students in the assessment process in your block classroom.

A-5: Pacing and Planning: Fitting it All Into Your Block – Vince Mancuso

Explore block techniques that prioritize essential content and ensure key learning objectives are met without sacrificing rigor or depth. Effectively streamline instruction, pace lessons, and integrate interdisciplinary connections to maximize student learning. Discover strategies for balancing direct instruction, hands-on activities, and assessments to make the most of extended class periods. Leave with practical tools and actionable strategies to maintain high-quality instruction and student engagement, while fitting your curriculum into the block model.

Lunch break • 12:10 – 1:10 pm

“Lots of great information and a wonderful opportunity to share with other teachers what has been successful in block classrooms.”

– Christie Alva-Sawicky, Teacher



“Outstanding! Activities I can immediately implement. Helpful information and suggestions. Well worth the time – I'm so happy I attended!”

– Lisa Macias-Flavin, Teacher



“A wealth of information with great ideas for teaching in the block.” – Luis Oliveira, ELL Teacher 3

Who is BER?

The Bureau of Education & Research is North America's leading presenter of training for professional educators. Our goal is to provide high-quality PD programs, based on sound research, with an emphasis on practical strategies and techniques that can be immediately implemented.



Team Discount

ONE DAY

One Person: \$325

BOTH DAYS

One Person: \$595

**Team of 3+: \$565 per person
when enrolled at the same time**

Day One

AFTERNOON SESSIONS • 1:10 – 3:40 pm

Choose **ONE** Full Afternoon Session OR **TWO** 70-Minute Sessions
One mid-afternoon break

Full Afternoon Session • 1:10 – 3:40 pm

B-1: Engaging All Learners in Your Block Classroom – *Janet Crews*

What is the number one thing secondary teachers want from their students? Engagement! Examine common instructional pitfalls to be mindful of and avoid, and effective ways to deliver your instruction that will improve student focus and interaction within your extended periods. Discover small adjustments to your daily routines that will promote strong student focus and engagement. Gain teacher-tested tools designed to make a difference for your diverse block schedule learners.

First 70-Minute Afternoon Sessions 1:10 – 2:20 pm

CHOOSE ONE: B-2 or B-3

B-2: Block Schedule Assessment That Works – *Vince Mancuso*

Assessments look different in block versus traditional classrooms. Position your assessments to drive learning, provide meaningful feedback, keep students engaged, and foster ownership of learning. Explore assessment strategies tailored for extended periods, including formative and summative assessments, performance-based tasks, student-led reflections, and alternative grading models. Discover innovative strategies that measure understanding and inform instruction without overwhelming students or consuming excessive class time. Transform assessments into valuable learning opportunities in your block classroom.

B-3: Engaging Games and Activities to Enhance Your Block Classroom

– *Rhett Oldham*

The block setting allows for rich thinking and problem-solving. Infuse engaging games and activities throughout your block lessons to keep students engaged, enhance transitions, and build student learning. Enrich students' thinking beyond your classroom walls and into real-world applications of your objectives. Reinforce key skills through extended thinking games and activities that bind multi-day lesson elements together. Explore a variety of games you can use immediately in your block classroom.

Second 70-Minute Afternoon Sessions 2:30 – 3:40 pm

CHOOSE ONE: B-4 or B-5

B-4: Make the Most of Every Minute: Strategic Transitions for Extended Periods

– *Vince Mancuso*

Dive into powerful block lesson transition techniques that provide cognitive breaks, while maintaining your learning objectives. Explore various transition strategies ranging from quiet transitions to movement-based, collaborative transitions. Create more a seamless flow between learning opportunities. Discover how intentional transitions can serve to prevent mental fatigue, sustain engagement, and maintain momentum. Optimize your instructional time, minimize distractions and ensure students' minds remain actively involved from the beginning to the end of class.

B-5: The Block Schedule Teacher Toolbox

– *Rhett Oldham*

Fill your instructional toolbox with practical resources that make block scheduling more engaging, efficient, and student-centered. This session introduces graphic organizers, note-taking supports, AI tools, digital platforms, and creative lesson structures to help you make the most of extended class time. You will leave with fresh ideas that bring variety, structure, and energy to your block lessons.



Online Learning

BER offers educators a wide range of online courses that are affordable, fun, fast, and convenient. BER is now offering On Demand Video-Based courses. You may earn optional graduate-level credits for most courses. See the catalog of available courses at www.ber.org/online

Day Two

MORNING SESSIONS • 9:00 – 11:40 am

Choose **ONE** Full Morning Session OR **TWO** 75-Minute Sessions
One mid-morning break

Full Morning Session • 9:00 – 11:40 am

C-1: Block Instructional Strategies to Increase Student Engagement and Learning

– *Vince Mancuso*

Explore powerful instructional strategies to sustain student interest, promote active participation, and enhance comprehension. Discover strategies that incorporate movement and collaboration, ensuring students remain focused and invested throughout the lesson. Leverage these strategies to create a dynamic block classroom that balances direct instruction with active learning. Explore techniques such as chunking content, utilizing brain breaks, and inquiry-driven instruction to maintain energy and engagement. Leave with ready-to-use strategies for strengthening your block classroom.

First 75-Minute Morning Sessions 9:00 – 10:15 am

CHOOSE ONE: C-2 or C-3

C-2: Intentional Inquiry: How Thoughtful Questions and Responses Drive Deeper Student Thinking – *Janet Crews*

What you ask – and how you respond – can either spark deep thinking or shut it down. Explore the power of intentional questioning, and response strategies that actively promote student thinking. Discover how your tone, phrasing, and follow-up can transform classroom conversations. Reflect on your current practices, engage in real-time questioning exercises, and leave with practical tools. Better invite, extend, and sustain student thinking in your block classroom.

C-3: AI and Digital Tools for Block Scheduling Success – *Rhett Oldham*

Time in class and out of class is a huge challenge for educators. AI is the leveler! Transform your block schedule classroom with smart tools that save time, support planning, and elevate student learning. This session highlights AI and digital platforms that can streamline question creation, lesson design, feedback, and interactive learning experiences. Explore how technology can help extend the reach of a block period while keeping instruction fresh, efficient, and responsive.

Second 75-Minute Morning Sessions 10:25 – 11:40 am

CHOOSE ONE: C-4 or C-5

C-4: Understanding Students' Brains to Make Block Schedule Work for Them, and You! – *Janet Crews*

Explore what your secondary students' brains need to improve their understanding and memory, and what can often get in the way. Learn how to use this information to better structure your block schedule activities to be highly engaging and impactful. Easily incorporate these research-based activities into your extended period classes and watch as your students put down their devices and engage more fully in the learning!

C-5: Routines That Keep Block Classes Moving – *Rhett Oldham*

Make every minute count with routines that help students transition smoothly, refocus quickly, and stay engaged throughout extended class periods. This session showcases practical systems for managing time, restarting attention after breaks, and building classroom habits that support success in a block schedule. You'll leave with strategies that create greater calm, order, and consistency in your block classes.

Comprehensive Digital Resource Handbook

You will receive an extensive digital resource handbook, specifically designed for this conference. Included in the handbook are resource materials for ALL conference sessions, even those you don't attend. These materials include:

- Cutting-edge ideas and strategies for immediate use in your block schedule classes
- Tools, resources, methods, and models for organizing your time and teaching within extended class periods
- Proven strategies and activities for keeping grades 6-12 students engaged during the whole block

"I really appreciated the numerous strategies in the handbook and that were presented."

– Amy Wiebe,
Science Teacher / Department Head



Lunch Break • 11:40 AM – 12:40 PM

"Great strategies for block teaching to keep students engaged." – Teresa White, Instructional Coach 5

Day Two

AFTERNOON SESSIONS • 12:40 – 3:20 pm

Choose **TWO** 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions
One mid-afternoon break

First 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions 12:40 – 1:55 pm

CHOOSE ONE: D-1, D-2 or D-3

D-1: Increasing Students' Desire to Invest Time, Attention, and Effort in Your Block Classroom – *Janet Crews*

We've all heard students ask, "Why do I need to know this?" Learn practical ways to flip this script and make your block classroom worth investing in. Consider how distraction impacts learning for your students, understand student motivation, and boost drive in your block classroom. Explore ways to use tools of inquiry, choice, empathy, challenge, authenticity, voice, reflection, and purpose to foster relationships and provide the relevant work students need to engage and thrive within your existing curriculum.

D-2: Cultivating Meaningful Discourse in Extended Class Periods – *Vince Mancuso*

Explore block strategies that foster deep conversations, critical thinking, and collaboration. Empower your students with learning activities that strengthen communication and participation. Learn how to structure discussions that sustain engagement over extended periods, create opportunities for student-led dialogue, and use questioning techniques that spark curiosity. Gain ready-to-implement discussion-based strategies and activities that position discourse as a powerful tool in the block classroom, transforming passive learners into active participants.

D-3: Designing Block Lessons That Flow – *Rhett Oldham*

Unlock the full potential of block scheduling with a lesson design that keeps learning active, focused, and purposeful from bell to bell. This session explores how to pace a longer class period so students move through hooks, instruction, practice, and reflection without losing momentum. You'll discover how thoughtful planning can turn extended periods into a powerful advantage rather than a challenge.

Second 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions 2:05 – 3:20 pm

CHOOSE ONE: D-4, D-5 or D-6

D-4: Collaborative Block Classrooms: A Key to Deeper Learning – *Janet Crews*

What does great collaboration look like? Often, we assume our students come already knowing how to work well together but find it doesn't magically happen on its own. Learn how effective group work in the block requires teaching, scaffolding, modeling, and practice. Leave with strategies to teach your students how to do this well. Discover exercises designed to create meaningful collaboration that will promote deeper student understanding and learning, perfect for use in your block schedule classes.

D-5: Instructional Models for the Block: Organizing Time with Purpose and Flexibility – *Vince Mancuso*

Explore adaptable lesson models that break your extended periods into purposeful, engaging segments to strengthen student learning and maintain momentum. These models work across content areas and organize your instructional time in ways that will foster clarity, focus, and flow – while incorporating scaffolding to increase student success. Leave with customizable formats that will enhance direct instruction, collaborative learning, assessment, and reflection, empowering you to make every minute of your block count.

D-6: Alternative Assessments for the Block Classroom – *Rhett Oldham*

Strengthen your assessments through the lens of block scheduling, where extended time allows for deeper thinking, richer discussion, and more authentic student products. Explore creative alternatives such as projects, academic games, discussion formats, digital portfolios, and Harkness and Socratic assessments. Discover how longer periods open the door to assessments that feel more engaging and better align with real understanding. Watch as your students actually want these alternative assessments more than traditional tests!



Attend Online Professional Development Options:



Related Online Courses

A related On-Demand Video-Based Online Learning course, *Strengthen Student Learning in Block Schedule Classes*, for Grades 6-12, is available for immediate registration. To enroll, visit www.ber.org/online

On-Site Training

Conferences like this one along with many other topics can be brought to your school or district. Please view all of our On-Site PD options at www.ber.org/onsite or call 877-857-8964 to speak with an On-Site Training PD Consultant.

*"Rich, ready-to-use
and highly applicable
resources."*

– Carrie Storms, Principal



2026 BLOCK SCHEDULE Conference: Maximize Engagement and Learning (Grades 6-12)

Registration (N6B7F1)

(Please copy this registration form for additional registrants)

DECEMBER 7 and 8, 2026 (Start time: 9 AM Eastern)

Both days: ☐ December 7 and 8, 2026

Day One only: ☐ December 7, 2026

Day Two only: ☐ December 8, 2026

FIRST NAME	M.I.	LAST NAME
POSITION, SUBJECT TAUGHT		GRADE LEVEL
SCHOOL NAME		
SCHOOL MAILING ADDRESS		
CITY & STATE		ZIP CODE
SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER	HOME PHONE NUMBER	
()	()	

Registration confirmations and login details are sent via e-mail

E-MAIL ADDRESS (REQUIRED FOR EACH REGISTRANT)

HOME MAILING ADDRESS

CITY & STATE ZIP CODE

PRIORITY ID CODE: EN6B7F1

METHOD OF PAYMENT – Group Discount Available

Payment is due prior to the program. No cash, please.

One day only, **\$325**; both days, **\$595**;

\$565 per person for groups of three or more registering at the same time for both days.

- ☐ A check (payable to **Bureau of Education & Research**) is attached
- ☐ A purchase order is attached, P.O. # _____
(Be sure to include priority ID code on the P.O.)

Cards accepted: MasterCard, VISA, Discover, AMEX

Account # _____ Exp. Date: _____ MO/YR

Billing Zip Code: _____ 3 Digit CVV Code: _____
(Found on back of card)

Please print name as it appears on card

Earn One to Four Graduate Semester Credits



Up to four graduate-level professional development credits are available with an additional fee and completion of follow up practicum activities. Details may be found at www.ber.org/credit

Meet Inservice Requirements / Earn State CEUs

Participants can receive a certificate of participation that may be used to verify continuing education hours. In addition, state CEUs are available. For details, visit www.ber.org/ceus

Registration Fee

The fee for the first or second day registration only is \$325 per person. If a person registers for both days, the registration fee is discounted to \$595 per person; \$565 per person for groups of three or more registering at the same time for both days. **Registration fees are due prior to the program. No cash, please.**

Fee includes conference registration, a certificate of daily attendance and an extensive digital resource handbook with materials for all sessions – even those you don't attend.

WA residents: visit www.dor.wa.gov/TaxRateLookup to find your required WA sales tax rate.

FIVE EASY WAYS TO REGISTER:



SCAN QR code or visit:
at.ber.org/regN6B



EMAIL this form to:
register@ber.org



PHONE toll-free:
1-800-735-3503v
(Weekdays 5:30 am - 5:00 pm Pacific Time)



FAX this form to:
1-425-453-1134



MAIL this form to:
Bureau of Education & Research
3000 Northup Way • PO Box 96068
Bellevue, WA 98004

Session Preferences: Session Numbers Required

DAY 1

☐ One Full Morning Session: A-1

- OR -

☐ Two 70-Minute Morning Sessions

A- _____ - and - A- _____
(A-2 or A-3) (A-4 or A-5)

☐ One Full Afternoon Session: B-1

- OR -

☐ Two 70-Minute Afternoon Sessions

B- _____ - and - B- _____
(B-2 or B-3) (B-4 or B-5)

DAY 2

☐ One Full Morning Session: C-1

- OR -

☐ Two 75-Minute Morning Sessions

C- _____ - and - C- _____
(C-2 or C-3) (C-4 or C-5)

☐ Two 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions

D- _____ (D-1, D-2 or D-3)

- AND -

D- _____ (D-4, D-5 or D-6)

Cancellation/Substitutions

100% of your paid registration fee will be refunded if you can't attend and notify us at least 10 days before the conference. Late cancellations made prior to the conference date will be refunded less a \$15 service fee. Substitutions may be made at any time without charge.

Program Guarantee

We stand behind the high quality of our programs by providing the following unconditional guarantee: If you are not satisfied with this program, we'll give you a 100% refund of your registration fee.

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BLOCK SCHEDULE Conference: Maximize Engagement and Learning (Grades 6-12)

- ***Outstanding Live Online Conference***
- ***Choose From 21 Strategy-Packed Sessions***
- ***Receive an Extensive Digital Resource Handbook***

N6B7F1



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