



# Technology to Individualize Student Support

Longsjo Middle School  
Fitchburg, MA

Longsjo Middle School uses a variety of software programs to diagnose, track, and provide individualized ELA and math interventions. Every day, each student receives one or two periods of additional support through the school’s “Workshop” periods and “X” blocks, depending on the needs of the student. During these times, each student is matched to a specific software program that delivers math and ELA content tailored to the student’s skill level.

## Diagnosing Student Needs

Following the Response to Intervention (RTI) model, the school classifies its students into three tiers of varying supports. To identify the supports each student requires, the school relies on MCAS assessment data in addition to literacy (GRADE, AIMSWeb, Galileo) and math (Galileo) assessments administered at the beginning and throughout the year to track student progress and allow the school to place students in and out of interventions accordingly in real time.

## Intervention periods at Longsjo

In addition to core instruction, Longsjo provides a 50-minute Math/ELA Workshop period to all students two to three days each week, alternating with the school’s enrichment period. During the Workshop period, Tier 1 students receive an additional math period, while Tier 2 and 3 students receive ELA and math remediation in groups of 15 students. Regardless of placement, all students use adaptive software to enhance their learning during Workshop.

In addition to Workshop, students in need of intensive supports (i.e. Tier 3 students) receive ELA and/or math intervention during the X block. These interventions occur in small groups, with 9 to 12 students per teacher. For Tier 1 and 2 students, meanwhile, the X block alternates between ELA, math, and science content depending on the day of the week.

**Sample 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Schedule**

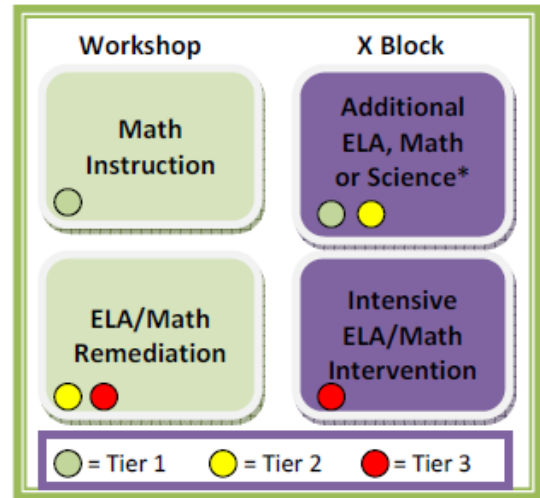
Period	Mon	Tue	Wed
7:45 – 8:15	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory
8:15 – 9:25	Math	Specials	Science
9:25 – 10:35	Specials (Social Studies/Art)	Science	ELA
10:35 – 11:05	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
11:05 – 12:20	X Block	X Block	X Block
12:20 – 1:10	Enrichment (Student Council, Yearbook)	Math/ELA Workshop	Enrichment
1:10 – 2:20	Science	ELA	Math
2:20 – 3:35	ELA	Math	Specials

## Software and Hardware at Longsjo

Within the Workshop period and X block, students use varying ELA and math adaptive software to enhance instruction and improve individual skill gaps. These programs also deliver real time performance data, allowing teachers to track student progress each day.

To supplement each child's learning with adaptive software, the school relies on two computer labs, two laptop carts, one computer pod, and computers in classrooms. Each computer lab holds 35 computers, while a laptop carts hold 15 laptops, and the computer pod provides an additional 12 computers. Furthermore, each teacher has received training in the specific content his/her Workshop uses and is able to assist students with both academic and technical support.

## Workshop/X Block Content Varies by Tiers



\*Additional period alternates daily; ELA Mon, Math Tue, Sci Wed

	Software	Grades	Tier(s)	Number of Students	Focus	Period
ELA	Read 180	5 – 8	2	63	Comprehension, Fluency, Phonics, Spelling	Workshop
	Reading Plus	5 – 8	2	24	Comprehension, Fluency, Phonics	Workshop
	System 44	5 – 8	3	38	Comprehension, Fluency, Phonics, Spelling	Workshop and X Block
	Language!	5 – 8	3	99	Comprehension, Fluency, Grammar, Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Spelling, and Writing	Workshop and X Block
Math	ALEKS	5 – 8	1, 2, 3	225	Acceleration and Remedial Math	Workshop and X Block
	Fast Math	5, 6	1, 2, 3	324	Math Facts	Math Period