



Principals' Training Center  
*PTCnet Survey*

**Topic** ES Instructional vs. Break Time

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**Query** I write in search of some benchmarking data. I am looking to find some data regarding allocated instructional time v. allocated break times in the elementary school. I am also looking for some information on use of elementary school classroom assistants.

1. Which region are you located in?
  2. How long is your entire ES school day in minutes including breaks?
  3. How many minutes a day, on average, do you spend on breaks, including lunch and recesses?
  4. Do you have classroom assistants in the elementary school? If yes, which grades?
  5. If yes, to number 4 above, do they attend specials or single subject classes in a supporting role?
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**Date** November 2011

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**Query Submitted and collated by** Brian Lettinga, Lower School Principal  
International School of Belgrade

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**Total number of responses** 17

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**Individual responses**

See following pages.

Responder	Regions	School Day Length	Breaks	TA	TA Attend Specials or Single Subject Classes
School 1	Eastern Europe	405 min	90	PreK-2	No
School 2	Central America	322-350 min	50	Not in the Elementary School (Grades 2-5), but in the Early Childhood Section, there is a bilingual assistant in every class.	Yes
School 3	South America	420 min	75	Yes -Preschool (P3) through Grade 5 (Preschool classes each have a full time assistant regardless of class size, in Grades 1-5 the grade levels with less than 18 students in a class share an assistant between the two classes.	Yes
School 4	Africa	390 min	75	1 TA/class in PS-G2 and 1 TA/grade level in G3-G5	K-G5 students are pulled out for PE, Art, French, and Performing Arts/Music
School 5	Gulf region. (Bahrain and Qatar)	390 min	55	In Grade 1 and 2.	Yes
School 6	Caribbean- British Virgin Islands	420 min	50-60	TA's for grades preK- grades 5. Full time in PreK-grade 2 part time grades 3-5.	TA's attend specials (for the younger, larger classes), but mostly spend time as support teachers in the classrooms. In the older grades the TA's support in the classrooms and help with clerical work.
School 7	South America	405 min	60	PreK-5	Yes
School 8	Asia	430 min	70	PreK-5 (1 per teacher PreK , K; 1 TA per 2	No
School 9	Near East Asia	430 min	65	We have a classroom assistant in every class PS - G5 and in some of the specialist classes (PE, Music & Art)	In the lower primary they attend the Nepal Studies class (P1-2), but not the other specialist classes.
School 10	Eastern Europe	420 min	65	PreK-1	Usually for PreSchool only, but also for IT in Grade 1
School 11	East Asia-Japan	397 min	80	K-2, but in grades 1 & 2, only 1	They do not attend specials. We do however, have an art class assistant (classified pay scale)
School 12	Middle East	430 min	70	PreK-Gr. 5. 2 EA's to 1 teacher in PreK-Grade 2, 1 EA to 4 teachers in grades 3, 4, and 5	Homeroom classes only.
School 13	Eastern Europe	390 min	70	PreK-5	Sometimes...ICT
School 14	Eastern Europe	400-415 min	80	Yes, in all grade levels. Per class from Pre-K - grade 2 and across grade level classes in grades 3 - 5	In younger grades only.

School 15	Eastern Europe	405 min	70	Yes, EC3 (one per teacher, plus one who serves both classes), EC4-1 <sup>st</sup> (one per teacher), 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade (two that are shared by 4 teachers) and one in both 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> .	No, with the exception of Early Childhood classes, the assistants to support in PE, Art and Tech.
School 16	Central America	410 min	55	Yes, PreK-2, We have 2 assistants for PE (Lower and upper elementary) and one floating assistant who helps with upper elementary, office, covering classes, etc.	Pre-School Assistants do attend some of the specialists classes for support (Art and Music)
School 17	South America	480 min	75-100	Yes: homeroom classes grades N-5 have full-time assistants; beginner ELL class grades 1-5 has a full-time assistant; science specialist grades K-5 has a 50% time assistant.	Assistants in ELL and science both take on a supporting role with small groups/individual students. Homeroom assistants in N-1 attend specialist classes only if requested to do so by the specialist. Many also take a supporting role in subject area lessons, however this is more on an individual basis and not one of their job expectations, per se (see my comment above, as I would like to move in this direction but only with well-qualified individuals).