

REVISED POLICY - VOL. 9, NO. 1

SCHOOL DAY

The Board of Education authorizes the school day to be arranged and scheduled by the administration. It is to offer the maximum education for the time spent within the limitations of school facilities and the laws and regulations of the State.

The minimum instructional week for Pre-K ~~is fourteen (14) hours per week and 128 instructional days per year~~ **shall be no less than 1,500 minutes per week and at least 48,000 minutes annually**. The minimum instructional day for K - 5 is 315 minutes, 6 - 8 is 330 minutes, and 9 - 12 is 345 minutes. It does not include time for homeroom, class changes, breaks/recess, lunch, and other noninstructional activities from the first designated assembling of the student body in groups (homeroom or first period) to the dismissal of the student body.

The Superintendent may close the schools, delay the opening of school, or dismiss school early when such alteration in the regular session is required for the protection of the health and safety of students and staff member. S/He shall prepare administrative guidelines for the proper and timely notification of concerned persons in the event of any emergency closing of the schools.

[X] The Superintendent shall have the authority to determine which school-related activities may be conducted if the schools are closed for a period of time. S/He shall prepare appropriate guidelines for communication to students, parents, and others regarding the scheduling and the conduct of such activities.

[OPTION]

[X] The Board shall

- (X)** require additional minutes of instruction to the school day beyond the State minimums in the formulation of the school calendar
- (X)** authorize the Superintendent to administratively adjust school day schedules after the school year has commenced

to recover time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals.

[END OF OPTION]

Approval of Appropriate Alternatives

State law provides that alternatives regarding instructional time proposed by the Board or a school may be approved by the State Board of Education so long as the alternative meets the spirit and intent of applicable Statutes and are intended solely to optimize student learning.

Pursuant to West Virginia State Board of Education policy 3234, successful schools are distinguishable from unsuccessful schools by the frequency and extent to which teachers discuss professional practices, collectively design materials, and inform and critique each other through collaborative planning, examination of student data, and participation in high quality professional learning experiences.

To achieve successful schools, the State Board of Education must have reasonable discretion to balance the local autonomy and flexibility needed by schools to deliver a thorough and efficient education as evidenced in a proposal that includes:

- A. sufficient time within the instructional term to promote the improvement of instruction and instructional practices;**

- B. school-level determination of alternatives affecting time within the school day that provide teachers with:**
 - 1. sufficient planning time to develop engaging, differentiated instruction for all students in all classes, and**
 - 2. collaborative time for teachers to undertake and sustain instructional improvement;**
- C. consideration of how learning time must not be assumed solely to be the time that a student is seated at a desk, but can also include time in the school day during which actively engages students in the learning process; and**
- D. articulation of how schools are provided the opportunity to determine which methods will be utilized to ensure teachers can plan individually and collectively to maximize learning time, such as:**
 - 1. scheduling;**
 - 2. using special subject teachers and guest presenters;**
 - 3. dedicating time set aside for professional learning experiences and/or staff development;**
 - 4. implementing alternative staff utilization patterns;**
 - 5. providing opportunities for administrators to teach; and/or**
 - 6. utilizing accrued instructional time.**

Alternative to Instructional Time Requirements to Optimize Student Learning

~~The State Board may approve such alternatives as proposed by a county board or school if, in the sole judgment of the State Board, the alternatives meet the spirit and intent of the applicable statutes and are intended solely to optimize student learning.~~

~~The board requesting an alternative to the time requirements to optimize student learning must submit a comprehensive plan to the State Board. A comprehensive plan for optimizing student learning must in the judgment of the State Board:~~

- ~~A. achieve the spirit and intent of the laws for an instructional term that provide the instructional time necessary for students to meet or exceed the high quality standards for student performance adopted by the State Board;~~
- ~~B. ensure sufficient time within the instructional term to promote the improvement of instruction and instructional practices;~~
- ~~C. incorporate a school calendar approved in accordance with the approval process required by State law and Board Policy 8210;~~
- ~~D. allow for school level determination of alternatives affecting time within the school day that preserve the spirit and intent of providing teachers with:
 - ~~1. sufficient planning time to develop engaging, differentiated instruction for all students in all classes, which includes at least the minimum required by State law and WV State Board of Education policy 3270;~~
 - ~~2. collaborative time for teachers to undertake and sustain instructional improvement;~~~~

~~This determination may be made only in the form of a school policy that is part of the school's strategic improvement plan and is approved by a vote of the faculty senate.~~

~~E. have the sole purpose of improving student learning and that improvement is evident within a reasonable period.~~

West Virginia State Board of Education policy 2510
West Virginia State Board of Education policy 2525
West Virginia State Board of Education policy 3234
WV School Code 18-2-5(c)

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