

School Year/School Calendar/Instruction Time

Prior to the end of the school year, the Board shall determine the length of time during which district schools shall be in session during the next school year. The number of **hours/days** of planned teacher-student instruction and of teacher-student contact **shall be consistent with the Board's definition of "actively engaged in the educational process,"** shall meet or exceed the requirements of state law and shall include a sufficient number of days to allow for flexibility in preparing a calendar that supports the district's educational objectives.

The Board defines "actively engaged in the educational process" as time when students are working toward achieving educational objectives under the supervision of a licensed teacher, including:

- classroom instruction time
- individual student work time while at school, including study hall and library research
- school-related field trips
- independent study insofar as such study is allowed under district policy
- assemblies
- nutrition breaks emphasizing healthy living and proper nutrition
- teacher supervised passing periods between classes emphasizing positive behaviors

NOTE: The intent of including passing time in the definition of "educational process" and the calculation of school hours is to create a contingency of additional hours to provide the district with flexibility to adjust the school schedule due to an emergency closing or other unforeseen circumstance. Including passing time is not meant to replace student-teacher instructional time. The district would rely on the extra hours created by including passing time only in the case of an emergency closing or other unforeseen circumstance.

- teacher supervised recess time emphasizing positive behaviors and social skills

"Actively engaged in the educational process" shall not include:

- lunch
- time students spend before school waiting for classes to begin and time after the last class of the day, including waiting for the bus
- teacher preparation time

Supervision by a licensed teacher shall not require that the teacher be in the student's physical presence at all times, but that the teacher is exercising direction and control over the nature of the student's activities.

The district calendar for the next school year shall be approved by the Board no later than April of each year.

All calendars shall include the dates for all staff in-service programs scheduled for the upcoming school year.

A copy of the calendar shall be provided to all parents/guardians of students enrolled in district schools. Any change in the calendar except for emergency closings or other unforeseen circumstances shall be preceded by adequate and timely notice of no less than 30 days.

If a school day is lost due to an emergency, the Board at its next regular meeting shall ratify the administrative action in closing the school.

Adopted: 12/8/88

Revised: 8/12/93, 10/26/95, 12/14/00, 10/14/02, 4/24/08, 5/27/10, 04/14/11

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-1-112 (school year and national holidays)
 C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(n) (duty to determine school year and instruction hours)
 C.R.S. 22-33-102 (1) (definition of academic year)
 C.R.S. 22-33-104 (1) (compulsory attendance law)
 C.R.S. 22-44-115.5 (fiscal emergency)
 1 CCR 301-39, Rules 2254-R-2.06 (school year and instruction hours; definition of contact/instruction time)

CROSS REF.: EBCE, School Closings and Cancellations

NOTE 1: State law establishes the school year as 1080 hours of planned teacher-student instruction for secondary school students (high school, middle school or junior high), 990 hours of such instruction for elementary school students other than kindergartners, 900 hours of such instruction for a full-day kindergarten program and 450 hours of such instruction for a half-day kindergarten program. The actual hours of teacher-student instruction may be reduced for parent/teacher conferences, staff in-service programs and closings due to student health, safety or welfare concerns to 1056 hours for secondary students, 968 hours for elementary students other than kindergartners, 870 hours for full-day kindergarten students and 435 hours for half-day kindergarten students. In no case shall a school schedule fewer than 160 days without specific prior approval of the commissioner of education. [C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(n)]

Teacher-Pupil Instruction Minimum Hours/Days

<i>Half-Day Kindergarten</i>	<i>450 hours</i>	<i>(can be reduced* to 435 hours)</i>	<i>160 days</i>
<i>Full-Day Kindergarten</i>	<i>900 hours</i>	<i>(can be reduced* to 870 hours)</i>	<i>160 days</i>
<i>Elementary (besides kindergarten)</i>	<i>990 hours</i>	<i>(can be reduced* to 968 hours)</i>	<i>160 days</i>
<i>Secondary</i>	<i>1,080 hours</i>	<i>(can be reduced* to 1,056 hours)</i>	<i>160 days</i>

**Can be reduced for parent/teacher conferences, staff in-service and closings necessary for student health, safety or welfare.*

NOTE 2: The school calendar for the current year might be presented as an exhibit coded ICA-E