



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

DATE: January 3, 2008

TO: School District Administrators

FROM: David Carlson, Director
School Financial Services Team

SUBJECT: School Days and Hours of Instruction

Each year the department receives a number of inquiries regarding the statutorily required 180 day calendar, the hours of instruction (1,050 for grades K-6 and 1137 grades 7-12), inclement weather days, and parent-teacher conference days. The following is a selected sampling of the pertinent statutes that apply to school days and hours of instruction. They are provided to give guidance to school district calendar development.

115.01 (10) SCHOOL DAY. (a) School days are days on which school is actually taught and the following days on which school is not taught:

1. Days on which school is closed by order of the school district administrator because of inclement weather and days on which parent-teacher conferences are held, not to exceed 5 days during the school term.
2. Days on which school is closed by order of a local health officer, as defined in s. 250.01(5), Wis. Stats.

(b) Not to exceed 5 Saturdays may be counted as school days in any school year when school is taught thereon with the consent of the school board.

If parent-teacher conferences are held in the evening of a day on which students attend for all or part of the day, the day may be counted as only one day toward the 180 day requirement.

121.02(1)(f) Each school board shall: 1. Schedule at least 180 school days annually, less any days during which the state superintendent determines that school is not held or educational standards are not maintained as the result of a strike by school district employees.

121.02(1)(f) Each school board shall: 2. Annually, schedule at least 437 hours of direct pupil instruction in kindergarten, at least 1,050 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 1 to 6 and at least 1,137 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 7 to 12. Scheduled hours under this subdivision include recess (up to 30 per day PI 8.01(2)(f)2) and time for pupils to transfer between classes but do not include the lunch period. A school board operating a 4-year-old kindergarten program may use up to 87.5 of the scheduled hours for outreach activities.

121.006(2)(a) State aid withheld. Hold school for at least 180 days each year, less any days during which the state superintendent determines that school is not held or educational standards are not maintained as the result of a strike by school district employees, the days to be computed in accordance with s. 115.01(10), Wis. Stats.

Please contact one of the following School Financial Services Team consultants should you have additional questions:

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