SCHOOL CALENDAR AND SCHOOL DAY

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar will accommodate the education program of the school district. The school year must consist of a minimum of 1080 hours and includes, but is not limited to, the days for student instruction, staff development, in-service days and teacher conferences. Each year the minimum school calendar may include up to 5 days or 30 hours of instruction delivered primarily over the internet.

The academic school year for students shall begin no sooner than August 23. Employees may be required to report to work at the school district prior to that date.

Special education students may attend school on a school calendar different from that of the regular education program so as to be consistent with their individualized Education Program (IEP).

The board, in its discretion, may excuse graduating seniors from up to five days (175 out of 180 days) or 30 hours (1050 out of 1080 hours) of instruction after the school district requirements for graduation have been met. The board may also excuse graduating seniors from making up days missed due to inclement weather if the student has met the school district's graduation requirements.

The Superintendent of Schools, working cooperatively with the professional staff, shall have the responsibility to develop the school calendar for recommendation, approval and adoption by the board annually. Board approval of the school calendar shall occur prior to the time of issuance of personnel contracts for the ensuing year and the calendar shall be considered an official part of these contracts.

The board may amend the official school calendar when the board considers the change to be in the best interest of the school district's education program. The board shall hold a public hearing on any proposed amendments to the school calendar prior to adopting the amended school calendar.

SCHOOL DAY

The student school day for grades one through twelve will consist of a minimum of six hours, not including the lunch period. The school day consists of the schedule of class instruction, class activities and passing times as established and sponsored by the school district. Time during which students are released from school for parent/teacher conferences may be counted as part of students' instructional time. The minimum school day will meet the requirements as established for the operation of accredited schools.

The board may define the number of days kindergarten will be held and the length of each school day for the students attending kindergarten. The school day will consist of a schedule as recommended by the superintendent and approved by the board.

The school district may also record a day of school with less than the minimum instructional hours if the total hours of instructional time for grades one through twelve in any five consecutive school days equals a minimum of thirty hours, even though any one day of school is less than the minimum instructional hours because of a staff development opportunity provided for the instructional staff, or parent-teacher conferences have been scheduled beyond the regular school day. If the total hours of instructional time for the first four consecutive days equal at least thirty hours because parent-teacher conferences have been scheduled beyond the regular school day, the school district may record zero hours of instructional time on the fifth consecutive school day as a school day. Schedule revisions and changes in time allotments will be made by the superintendent.

When school is forced to close due to weather or other emergencies, the part of the day during which school was in session will constitute a school day. The Superintendent will create administrative regulations necessary to utilize any remote learning opportunities that are available and permitted by law during the period of closure. The provision of special education and accommodations for students who have individualized education programs (IEPs) or Section 504 plans during periods of closure will be determined by each respective IEP or Section 504 team.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to inform the board annually of the length of the school day.

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Legal Reference: (Code of Iowa): Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 279.10, 280.3; 299.1 (2). 281 I.A.C. 12.1(7); 41.106. 34 C.F.R. sec. 300, 28 C.F.R. pt. 35, Iowa Code § 256.7 (3) (21) (32), 279.8, .10., 281 I.A.C. 12.1(1), .1(7-10).