

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Policy 1210
(Regulation 1210)

Calendar Requirements

School Year and School Day

Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, the Board will annually adopt a school calendar that will provide for 1,044 hours of pupil attendance with no minimum number of school days. The beginning of the school year will not generally be set more than fourteen (14) calendar days prior to Labor Day. Should the Board decide to set an earlier start date, the Board will:

- Give public notice of the meeting to discuss an earlier start date
- Conduct a public meeting
- Vote at that meeting to allow an earlier start date

The length of the school day will meet State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requirements for six (6) clock hours of instruction. A school year and school day in excess of the state required minimum may be recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board. The planned calendar adopted prior to the beginning of the school year must be reported to DESE on Core Data Screen 10 by August 15 of each year, and cannot be changed after that date.

The District will only be required to make up the first thirty-six (36) hours of school lost or canceled due to inclement weather and half the number of hours lost or canceled in excess of thirty-six (36) hours up to twenty-four (24) hours of additional lost or canceled hours. Thus, the maximum number of hours that must be made up is sixty (60) hours. For purposes of this Policy, “inclement weather” shall mean ice, snow, extreme cold, flooding or a tornado, but not excessive heat. With the start of the 2020-21 school year, “excessive heat” will be added to the definition of “inclement weather.”

However, beginning in the school year 2020-21, the District will not be required to make up any hours of school lost or cancelled due to exceptional or emergency circumstances during a school year, if DESE has approved an alternative method of instruction plan submitted by the District.

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Approved September 2019

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Alternative Methods of Instruction

Beginning in school year 2020-21, the District may use a DESE approved alternative method of instruction to compensate for certain hours lost due to exceptional and/or emergency circumstances. “Exceptional or emergency circumstances” include, inclement weather, a utility outage or an outbreak of a contagious disease.

Notification of Parents and Students

If the District utilizes such DESE approved alternative method of instruction plan, the District will notify students and parents on each day of the closure. In these circumstances, the District will ensure that each student receives assignments for that day in hard copy or receives instruction through virtual learning or another form of instruction.

Limitation on Utilization of Instruction Method

Alternative methods of instruction can be utilized for a maximum of thirty-six (36) hours during a school year. Days lost or cancelled beyond thirty-six (36) hours, will be made up in the scheduling of replacement days.

Application for Use of Alternative Methods of Instruction

The District’s application to DESE will describe:

1. Manner in which the District intends to strengthen and reinforce instructional content.
2. Means of communicating to students and parents the decision to implement alternative methods.
3. Process for communicating the purpose and expectation of alternative changes.
4. Communication of proposed expectations.
5. Assignments and materials to be used.
6. Manner in which attendance will be determined.
7. Instruction methods to reach students electronically and to reach students without internet access.
8. Instructional methods for IEP students.
9. Role and responsibility of certified personnel to be available to communicate with students.

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