

SCHOOL YEAR AND SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

A. School Year.

The school year shall be a minimum of 180 instructional days or, alternatively, the equivalent number of hours as required in the rules of the N.H. Department of Education (see Ed 306.18), plus additional days for teacher in-service and emergency/make-up days.

The school calendar will be established annually as described in paragraph D below.

B. School Closures.

Any days that the schools are closed for emergency reasons and are not designated by the Superintendent as distance education days (see paragraph C below) will be made up at the end of the school year or during recess periods, as approved by the Board upon the Superintendent's recommendation. Under special circumstances the Board may request an exception to this requirement from the State Board of Education.

In the event schools are closed for excessive days for emergency reasons, the Superintendent may recommend to the School Board a revised schedule that satisfies all Department of Education requirements, but which may amend the number of days in the school year.

C. Distance Education During Inclement Weather.

If inclement weather makes it unsafe to safely transport students to or from in-person instruction, the Superintendent/designee is authorized to designate that day as a remote instruction or "distance learning". Before remote instruction/distance learning is used as instructional day for the purpose of satisfying the minimum instructional day/hour requirements of the N.H. Department of Education, the Superintendent shall ensure that a plan exists with procedures to promote and allow for participation by all students in any affected school.

Prior to approving designating a day as a remote instruction/distance learning day, or any school/district-wide distance education that is dependent on technology, the Superintendent/designee will consider the impact that the inclement weather event might have on necessary technology.

Distance education will only count toward required instructional days/time when conducted in accordance with N.H. Dept. of Education Rule Ed 306.22. See also Board policy IMBA.

D. School Calendar.

The school calendar will be developed by the Superintendent and submitted to the Board for approval. Any exceptions or revisions made to the calendar after the Board's initial approval must be accepted by the Board in advance.

The Superintendent shall ensure that the calendar conforms to the number of actual days of instruction and employment as required by law, board policy, and staff contracts.

To the extent possible, the calendar will be coordinated with the school calendars of the area vocational schools, regional special education programs, and other districts in the SAU.

The high school graduation date shall be set no more than 5 school days or 30 instructional hours before the end of the scheduled school year. The date may remain fixed notwithstanding the need for other grades to make up days lost to inclement weather or other emergencies. See Ed 306.18(a)(4).

Legal References:

RSA 189:1, Days of School

RSA 189:24, Standard School

N.H. Dept. of Education Rules, Ed 306.18, School Year

N.H. Dept. of Education Rules, Ed 306.19, School Calendar

N.H. Dept. of Education Rules, Ed 306.22, Distance Education

Legal References Disclaimer: *These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

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