

## SCHOOL YEAR

*Category: R*

*Related Policies: IMBA*

### A. School Year.

The student 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).

The school year for teachers and other certified professionals shall be 184 days unless otherwise determined by the Board, applicable collective bargaining agreement, or individual contract.

The school year for support staff shall be 182 days unless otherwise determined by the Board, applicable collective bargaining agreement, or individual contract.

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 policies IC and IMBA

### D. School Calendar.

The school calendar will be developed by the Superintendent and submitted to the Board by April 30<sup>th</sup> each year. The Board should approve the final calendar by April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Any exceptions or revisions to the calendar thereafter must be approved in advance by the

Board.

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*

*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.18, School Year*

*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.19, School Calendar*

*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.27 (q), High School Schedule for Seniors/Graduation*

Colebrook School Board: Adopted – May 5, 2020

Pittsburg School Board: Adopted – May 11, 2020

Stewartstown School Board: Adopted – May 4, 2020

Pittsburg School Board: Revised – November 14, 2022

Colebrook School Board: Revised – November 15, 2022

Clarksville School Board: Revised – December 12, 2022

Columbia School Board: Revised – January 3, 2023

Stewartstown School Board: Revised – January 4, 2023