

## INSTRUCTION

### School Day and School Hours

The standard school year shall be at least 180 instructional days. The standard school day for students in grades 1 through 12 shall average at least 5 1/2 hours, excluding intermissions for meals, ~~and a minimum of three hours for kindergarten.~~

The ~~School Division~~ ~~school division~~ may develop alternative schedules for meeting these requirements as long as a minimum of 990 hours of instructional time is provided for grades 1 through 12, ~~and 540 hours for kindergarten.~~ Such alternative plans must be approved by the School Board and by the Virginia Board of Education, under guidelines established by the Virginia Board of Education. No alternative plan which reduces the instructional time in the core academics shall be approved.

The length of the school day for students shall be determined by the School Board on recommendation of the Superintendent and shall take into consideration, but not be limited to, the ages of the students, the distances to and from school, bus scheduling, safety hazards and time needed to accomplish educational objectives. The Superintendent shall yearly set forth ~~in regulation~~ the actual hours of attendance for each elementary, middle, and high school in the ~~School Division~~. The Superintendent is authorized to make determinations regarding adjustment of school hours and the opening or closing of school when inclement weather or conditions exist that would prohibit safely conducting school on specific days.

### Legal Reference

Code of Virginia § 22.1-98, as amended. Reduction of state aid when length of school term below 180 days or 990 hours.

Code of Virginia § 22.1-79.1, as amended. Opening of the school year; approvals for certain schedules.

Virginia Board of Education Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, § 8 VAC 20-131-10 *et seq.*

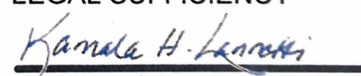
Code of Virginia § 22.1-200.2, as amended. Minimum instructional time; optional unstructured recreational time.

Adopted by School Board: July 13, 1993 (Effective August 14, 1993)

Amended by School Board: October 6, 1998

Amended by School Board: November 2022

APPROVED AS TO  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

  
Kamala H. Lencioni