

Descriptor Term: SCHOOL DAY/YEAR

Descriptor Code: AF/IED

Rescinds: AF/IED

Board Approved: 6/3/2013

Previously Approved: 5/22/2006

It will be the policy of the Board of Trustees to provide sufficient instructional time for students to attain mastery of specific learner objectives at all instructional levels. Said time will be allocated and protected to provide student engagement rates (time-on-task) which are sufficient to provide mastery. In order to insure that adequate instructional time is provided the Board directs the Superintendent and his/her staff to incorporate the following directives into all instructional plans for the District:

1. **SCHOOL DAY** - that portion of the calendar day that includes the teaching day, intermissions, and any additional hours (time) included in the employee contract. This defines the "normal working day" for employees.
2. **TEACHING DAY** - A day in which a minimum of 330 minutes of instruction and/or evaluation and/or district approved group testing is provided. Exceptions are days with fewer than 330 instructional minutes that are part of an instructional week of at least 27.5 hours. {MS Code§ 37-13-67}
3. **INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS** - The Board will determine and fix the number of hours of actual teaching that constitutes a school day of not less than five hours nor more than eight hours. §37-13-67

A minimum of 60% of classroom instructional time in the kindergarten program will be spent in learning center activities.

Ensure that during the academic school year the required hours of instruction to meet Mississippi State Board of Education guidelines are provided for each Carnegie unit of credit offered in the district's secondary schools, except for accelerated learning programs and remedial instructional programs that are proficiency based. A traditional 7-period day schedule must meet the required hours of instruction to meet Mississippi State Board of Education guidelines.

4. **TEACHING YEAR** - The teaching year will be 180 days. No more than two of the 180 days may be 60% days, unless the district is utilizing an Early Release schedule that provides at least 27.5 hours per five-day week provided that there are at least 198 minutes of actual instruction or testing and the remainder of each 60% day is used for professional development or other activities related to instruction. (MS Code 37-151-5(j)) **(NOTE: TEACHER WORK DAYS WILL EXTEND SEVEN DAYS BEYOND THE**

**INSTRUCTIONAL YEAR.)**

The staff will schedule preparation for graduation ceremonies in such a manner that graduating seniors are absent from classes for no more than three days prior to the end of the school year (177 days). (Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2004, Standard 19.5)

Legal Reference: Mississippi Code 1972, as cited above; Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards