

Regulation 6112 School Day

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 11/2002

Last Revised Date: 08/28/2024

Kindergarten/Transitional Kindergarten

Kindergarten and transitional kindergarten (TK) classes in district schools may be maintained for different lengths of time, either at the same or different school sites. (Education Code 37202)

The average school day for kindergarten and TK students shall be at least three hours, including recesses but excluding noon intermissions. If fewer than 40 students are enrolled in kindergarten classes, the district may request approval of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to maintain two kindergarten classes of 150 minutes each. (Education Code 46114, 46115, 46117, 46119)

In any school day, kindergarten and/or TK students shall not be kept in school for longer than four hours, excluding recesses, except where the school is operating an early primary program pursuant to Education Code 8970-8974 or an expanded learning opportunity program pursuant to Education Code 46120. (Education Code 46111, 46115, 46120)

In any district school operating an early primary program pursuant to Education Code 8970-8974, the kindergarten school day may exceed four hours, excluding recess, if both of the following conditions are met: (Education Code 8973)

1. The Governing Board has declared that the extended-day kindergarten program does not exceed the length of the primary school day.
2. The extended-day kindergarten program includes ample opportunity for both active and quiet activities within an integrated, experiential, and developmentally appropriate educational program.

Under an extended day kindergarten program, recess may be counted as instructional minutes for purposes of determining the maximum school day if it occurs under teacher supervision.

In any multitrack year-round school operating pursuant to Education Code 37670, the kindergarten school day may be up to 265 minutes, excluding recesses. (Education Code 46111)

The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the California Department of Education as to whether the district's kindergarten and TK programs are offered full day, part day, or both. (Education Code 48003)

Grades 1-8

Except as otherwise provided by law, the school day for elementary and middle school students shall be:

1. At least 230 minutes for students in grades 1-3, unless the Board has prescribed a shorter school day because of lack of school facilities requiring double sessions, in which case the minimum school day shall be 200 minutes (Education Code 46112)
2. At least 240 minutes for students in grades 4-8 (Education Code 46113, 46142)

In determining the number of minutes for purposes of compliance with the minimum school day for students in grades 1-8, both noon intermissions and recesses shall be excluded. (Education Code 46115)

The school day for a middle school shall begin no earlier than 8:00 a.m. (Education Code 46148)

Grades 9-12

The school day for a high school shall begin no earlier than 8:30 a.m. (Education Code 46148)

The school day for students in grades 9-12, including students in the traditional independent study program, shall be at least 240 minutes. (Education Code 46141, 46142)

However, the school day may be less than 240 minutes when authorized by law. Programs that have a minimum school day of 180 minutes include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1. Continuation high school or classes (Education Code 46141, 46170)
2. Opportunity school or classes (Education Code 46141, 46180)
3. Regional occupational center (Education Code 46141, 52325)
4. Work experience education program approved pursuant to Education Code 51760-51769.5 (Education Code 46141, 46144)

A student in grade 12 who is enrolled in work experience education and is in the last semester or quarter before graduation may, upon written request by the student's parent/guardian or the student, if 18 years of age or over, be permitted to attend school for less than 180 minutes per school day if all requirements for graduation would be completed, except physical education courses, in less than 180 minutes each day. (Education Code 46147)

5. Concurrent enrollment in a community college pursuant to Education Code 48800-48802 or, for students in grades 11-12, part-time enrollment in classes of the California State University or University of California, provided academic credit will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of enrolled courses (Education Code 46146)

6. An early college high school or middle college high school, provided the students are enrolled in community college or college classes in accordance with item #5 above (Education Code 46141, 46146.5)
7. Special day or Saturday vocational training program conducted under a federally approved plan for career technical education (Education Code 46141, 46144)
8. Adult education classes (Education Code 46190)

For an evening high school operated pursuant to Education Code 51720-51724, the number of days, specific days of the week, and number of hours during which the program shall be in session may be determined by the Board. (Education Code 46141, 51721)

Students in grade 12 shall be enrolled in at least five courses each semester or the equivalent number of courses each quarter. This requirement shall not apply to students enrolled in regional occupational centers or programs, courses at accredited postsecondary institutions, independent study, special education programs in which the student's individualized education program establishes a different number of courses, continuation education classes, work experience education programs, or any other course of study authorized by the Board that is equivalent to the approved high school course of study. (Education Code 46145)

Alternative Block Schedule for Secondary Schools

In order to establish a block or other alternative schedule or to accommodate career technical education and regional occupational center/program courses, the district may authorize students to attend fewer than the total number of days in which school is in session provided that students attend classes for at least 1,200 minutes during any five school day period or 2,400 minutes during any 10 school day period. (Education Code 46160)

An early college high school or middle college high school may be scheduled so that students attend classes for at least 900 minutes during any five-school day period or 1,800 minutes during any 10-school day period. (Education Code 46160)

11/2002
 11/2006
 05/09/2007
 10/2013
 02/13/2018
 08/28/2024

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
Ed. Code 37202	Equal time in all schools
Ed. Code 37670	Year-round schools

Ed. Code 46010	Total days of attendance
Ed. Code 46100	Length of school day
Ed. Code 46110-46120	Attendance in kindergarten and elementary schools
Ed. Code 46120	Expanded learning opportunities
Ed. Code 46140-46148	Attendance in junior high and high schools
Ed. Code 46148	School day for middle and high school
Ed. Code 46162	Alternative schedule for junior high and high school; public hearing with notice
Ed. Code 46170	Continuation schools; minimum day
Ed. Code 46180	Opportunity schools; minimum day
Ed. Code 46191	Attendance for adults in correctional facilities
Ed. Code 46200-46206	Minimum instructional time
Ed. Code 48200	Minimum school day
Ed. Code 48663	Community day school; minimum school day
Ed. Code 48800-48802	Concurrent enrollment in community college
Ed. Code 51222	Physical education; instructional minutes
Ed. Code 51760-51769.5	Work experience education
Ed. Code 52325	Regional occupational center; minimum day
Ed. Code 8970-8974	Early primary program, including extended-day kindergarten

Management Resources	Description
California Department of Education Publication	Conducting Individualized Determinations of Need
California Department of Education Publication	Clarifications for Student Learning in Quarantine, 2021
California Department of Education Publication	2021-22 AA & IT Independent Study FAQs
NASPE Position Statement	Recess for Elementary School Students, 2006
State Board of Education Policy Statement	99-03 Physical Education (PE) Requirements for Block Schedules, July 2006
U.S. Department of Education Publication	Extending Learning Time for Disadvantaged Students, August 1995
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	WestEd
Website	National Association for Sport and Physical Education
Website	State Board of Education
Website	U.S. Department of Education
Website	California Department of Education
WestEd Publication	Full-Day Kindergarten: Expanding Learning Opportunities, Policy Brief, April 2005

Cross References

Code	Description
3516.5	Emergency Schedules
5030	Student Wellness
5113	Absences And Excuses
5113	Absences And Excuses
5141.22	Infectious Diseases
5141.22	Infectious Diseases
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5145.6-E(1)	Parent/Guardian Notifications
6000	Concepts And Roles
6111	School Calendar
6117	Year-Round Schedules

6142.7	Physical Education And Activity
6142.7	Physical Education And Activity
6145.8	Assemblies And Special Events
6154	Homework/Makeup Work
6158	Independent Study
6158	Independent Study
6159	Individualized Education Program
6159	Individualized Education Program
6164.6	Identification And Education Under Section 504
6164.6	Identification And Education Under Section 504
6170.1	Transitional Kindergarten
6171	Title I Programs
6171	Title I Programs
6172.1	Concurrent Enrollment In College Classes
6172.1	Concurrent Enrollment In College Classes
6178	Career Technical Education
6178	Career Technical Education
6178.1	Work-Based Learning
6178.1	Work-Based Learning
6178.2	Regional Occupational Center/Program
6179	Supplemental Instruction
6184	Continuation Education
6184	Continuation Education
6185	Community Day School
6185	Community Day School
6200	Adult Education
6200	Adult Education
9320	Meetings And Notices