

Instruction

School Day

The Board of Education shall fix the length of the school day in accordance with law. (Education Code 46100)

The school day shall be arranged and scheduled by the administration so as to offer the greatest return educationally for the time spent, within the limitations of school facilities and requirements of State law and regulations.

At each school, the length of the school day shall be the same for all students, except as otherwise permitted by law. For any student with a disability, the length of the school day shall be as specified in the student's individualized education program or Section 504 plan.

Unless there is a field trip or other educational program, the daily schedule for grades K-6 shall include at least one or more periods of recess of at least 30 minutes on regular instructional days and 15 minutes on early release days. During this time, students shall be provided supervised opportunities, outdoors when weather and air quality permit unless space is not sufficient in which case recess may be held indoors, to engage in unstructured physical activity, play, organized games, and/or social engagement with peers, and may be provided a snack. (Education Code 49056)

Educational Program means the entire school-sponsored offering for students, including in-class and out-of-class activities. (Education Code 49056)

In establishing the daily instructional schedule for each secondary school, the Superintendent or designee shall give consideration to course requirements and curricular demands, availability of school facilities and equipment, and applicable legal requirements.

The Board encourages flexibility in scheduling so as to provide longer time blocks or class periods when appropriate and desirable to support student learning, provide more intensive study of core academic subjects or extended exploration of complex topics, and reduce transition time between classes.

Prior to implementing a block or alternative schedule that will allow secondary students to attend school for fewer school days than the total number of school days for which the school is in session, the Board shall consult in good faith the certificated and classified employees of the school, parents/guardians of the students who would be affected by the change, and the community at large. Such consultation shall include at least one public hearing for which the Board shall give adequate notice to the employees and to the parents/guardians of affected students. (Education Code 46162)

(Legal reference next page)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8970-8974 Early primary program, including extended-day kindergarten
37202 Equal time in all schools
37670 Year-round schools
46010 Total days of attendance
46100 Length of school day
46110-46120 Attendance in kindergarten and elementary schools
46120 Expanded learning opportunities
46140-46148 Attendance in junior high and high schools
46148 School day for middle and high school
46160-46162 Alternative schedule for junior high and high school; public hearing with notice
46170 Continuation schools; minimum day
46180 Opportunity schools; minimum day
46191 Attendance for adults in correctional facilities
46200-46205 Incentives for longer instructional day and year
48200 Compulsory full-time education
48663 Community day school; minimum school day
48800-48802 Concurrent enrollment in community college
49056 Recess
51222 Physical education; instructional minutes
51720-51724 Evening high school for minors
51760-51769.5 Work experience education
52325 Regional occupational center; minimum day