Policy

SCHOOL YEAR

Code **IC** *Revised* **11/25**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the length of the school year.

The school year will consist of 190 days. The district will use 180 days for student instruction.

The district will use no more than two of the ten remaining days for the preparation for opening the school. The district must use four days for professional development based on the state academic achievement standards. The other four days may be used for academic plans, teacher-parent conferences and teacher preparation and planning.

The district will not begin classes for students prior to the third Monday in August. This does not apply to schools operating on a year-round modified school calendar. The district may request a waiver from this requirement under certain conditions outlined in law.

The superintendent, in consultation with the staff, will prepare the school calendar. The calendar will set forth days of attendance for students; days of inservice and organizational meetings for teachers; holidays and vacation periods; days of reports to parents; and other schedules of importance to the staff and public. The superintendent will present the proposed calendar to the board for approval each year.

The district will make up all days lost due to snow, extreme weather conditions or other disruptions. The board will designate at least three make-up days within the school calendar on the superintendent's recommendation. If those days have been used or are no longer available, the board may lengthen the school day by no less than one hour per day for the total number of hours missed with the prior approval of the South Carolina Department of Education or operate schools on Saturday. However, if the board authorizes make-up days on Saturday, tutorial instruction normally offered on Saturday for students in grades seven through twelve must be scheduled at an alternative time.

After the district has made up three days or the appropriate number of missed hours using one of the options listed above, the board may waive up to three days by a majority vote of the board. If, after the waiver by the board, the district has additional days to make up, the board may request that days be forgiven by the state department. The state department can waive an additional three days upon the request of the board after a majority vote by the board agreeing to submit the request.

The district must submit a report at the end of the school year to the state department detailing the number of days missed, the reason why the days were missed, the number of days made up and the number of days waived.

Adopted 6/2/80; Revised 10/1/84, 6/1/98, 3/4/13; 10/5/15; 11/10/25

Legal references:

A. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
    1. Section 59-19-90(12) – General powers and duties of board, establish an annual calendar.
    2. Section 59-1-370 – Closing of education institutions on general Election Day
    3. Section 59-1-425 – School terms, school days, make-up days.

B. State Board of Education Regulations:
    1. R43-231 – Defined program, K-5
    2. R43-232 – Defined program, 6-8
    3. R42-234 – Defined program, grades 9-12 and graduation requirements.