

SCHOOL YEAR AND SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

A. School Year.

The student school year shall be a minimum of 990 hours of instructional time for middle and senior high school students and a minimum of 945 hours per school year for elementary school students as required in the rules of the N.H. Education Department.

The school year for teachers and other certified professionals shall be determined by the applicable collective bargaining agreement, or individual contract.

The school year for support staff shall be determined by the applicable collective bargaining agreement, or individual contract.

The school calendar will be established annually as described in paragraph C below.

B. School Closures.

Any days that the schools are closed for emergency reasons will be made up at the end of the school year or during recess periods, as approved by the Board upon the Superintendent's recommendation. Under special circumstances the Board may request an exception to this requirement from the State Board of Education.

In the event schools are closed for excessive days for emergency reasons, the Superintendent may recommend to the School Board a revised schedule that satisfies all Department of Education requirements, but which may amend the number of days in the school year.

C. School Calendar.

The school calendar will be developed by the Superintendent and submitted to the School Board for approval. Any exceptions or revisions to the calendar thereafter must be approved by the School Board.

The Superintendent shall ensure that the calendar conforms to the number of actual days of instruction and employment as required by law, board policy, and staff contracts.

The calendar must align with the calendar established by any applicable Regional Career and Technical Center Agreements (RCTEA), with exceptions only as allowed under RSA 188-E:1-a, III.

The high school graduation date shall be set for no more than 5 school days or 30 instructional hours before the end of the scheduled school year. The date may remain fixed notwithstanding the need for other grades to make-up days lost to inclement weather or other emergencies.

D. Holidays.

Pursuant to RSA 288.4, III, any holiday included in the school calendar that corresponds to a State “legal” holiday shall use the name for such holiday as designated in RSA 288.1. As of 2024, these include: January 1, Martin Luther King Jr. Civil Rights Day, Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day (formerly known as Indigenous Peoples Day), Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

All schools receiving State funds are required to observe Veterans Day. Additionally, such names shall be used on any “official” communication, publication, document, or calendar.

Legal References:

RSA 188-E:1-a Regional Career and Technical Education Agreements (RCTEA)

RSA 189:1 Days of School

RSA 189:24 Standard School

RSA 288:1 Holidays

RSA 288:4 School Holidays

N.H. Dept. of Ed. Rule - Ed 306.15 School Year

N.H. Dept. of Ed. Rule - Ed 306.15(f) Remote Learning

N.H. Dept. of Ed. Rule - Ed 306.18 Remote Learning

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