

SCHOOL CALENDAR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) Why do we start school so early/late? Why does the school year end when it does?

The start date can be no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 and the end date can be no later than the Friday closest to June 11. School calendars must meet these requirements. Many times there is little flexibility to adhere to these requirements and meet the preferences of our students, families, and staff.

For additional information about school calendar law requirements, please access the following [link](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/financial-and-business-services/school-calendar-requirements) or go to <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/financial-and-business-services/school-calendar-requirements>

2) Does the Davidson County Schools Calendar meet the 185 days or the 1,025 hours requirement?

Davidson County Schools meets the minimum requirement of 1,025 instructional hours. For each day of missed instruction and each day with a delayed start, hours are deducted from our projected total of instructional hours for the school year.

3) When instructional time is waived, how does that impact the total of projected instructional hours for the year?

As a result of our schools having different school day start/end times, individual schools accumulate hours differently and many schools have a different projected instructional hours total. Although some schools are projected to have an instructional hours total far greater than the required 1,025 hours, the school with the shortest instructional day often dictates how many inclement weather days missed can be waived or must be made up by all schools in the system. The lowest number of daily instructional hours at a school in our district is six hours.

4) Why don't you use the "Make-Up Days" in the order they are listed on the calendar?

The potential "Make-up Days" on the school calendar are listed in chronological order, not necessarily in the order they will be used. Depending on *when* the inclement weather occurs sometimes affects which days are used. We also receive input from parents, staff and Board Members as the year progresses that can have

an impact on the final decision by the Board of Education. PLEASE NOTE: The school calendar may be amended by the Board of Education to provide additional instructional time on student days, Saturdays, at the end of the school year, on early release days, or on any other current non-instructional day to meet NC General Statute 115C-84.2 requirements.

5) When the school calendar is created, why can't we add more non-instructional teacher work days during the school year? Why are there so many teacher work days before students start school or after students leave for the summer?

The start date can be no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 and the end date can be no later than the Friday closest to June 11. School calendars must meet these state requirements. If we are unable to fit/accumulate adequate instructional time within those dates, non-instructional teacher workdays must be placed before or after the student days begin and/or end.

6) What determines how many holidays, teacher work days, etc. are in the calendar?

Teachers must be paid for a total of 215 days each school year. These days include days of instruction, holidays, required and optional work days, and annual leave days. If school is closed due to inclement weather and student instructional hours are waived, that day must still be accounted for within the 215 days by making the inclement weather day an optional work day or required work day for teachers.

If instructional hours are not waived, teachers and students are expected to make-up the day later in the school calendar, normally on an annual leave day in the future. The annual leave day is moved to the date missed due to inclement weather and the day the annual leave day was moved from, becomes an instructional day. For more information about the distribution of teacher workdays, please go to the following [link: https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/fbs/resources/school-calendar-guidance/open](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/fbs/resources/school-calendar-guidance/open)

7) Why can't we go to school later in June?

It varies each year depending on how the days fall. The last student day can be no later than the Friday closest to June 11. School calendars must meet these state requirements. Many times there is little flexibility to adhere to these requirements and meet the preferences of our students, families, and staff. Graduation scheduling is also another factor that must be considered. For additional information about school calendar law requirements, please access the following [link](#):

8) How and/or why would the decision be made to extend the school day?

The “Inclement Weather/Make-up Time Survey” results weigh heavily on decisions to add back missed instructional time. Other factors are also taken into consideration.

9) How does an extended school day impact staff?

School staff are categorized into certified (salaried) and classified (hourly) employees. Each of those two categories has its own FLSA (Fair Labor Standards Act) regulations. Salaried employees are not subject to overtime pay or additional compensation for weekly hours worked in excess of 40. But, hourly employees must be compensated for every hour worked and are entitled to receive overtime pay if hours worked within a week exceed 40. When the school day is extended, classified staff must adjust their work day to maintain the same assigned number of hours each day and the employees who are full-time and work 40 hours each week must not go over that set number of hours. All daily substitutes can work a maximum of 3.5 days per week with the day extended by 30 minutes.

10) Why can't we use more remote instruction days to decrease missed instructional hours?

- In order to use remote learning days, Davidson County School had to previously file a Remote Learning Plan with the Office of Digital Teaching and Learning. After approval, the following requirements must be met:
 - Teacher workdays (optional or mandatory) cannot be combined with remote instruction.
 - A public school unit in a county that has received a calendar waiver may use up to 15 remote instructional days or 90 remote instructional hours.
 - All other public school units may use up to five remote instruction days or 30 remote instruction hours.

11) Weather Waiver: Does Davidson County Schools qualify for a calendar waiver due to inclement weather?

Davidson County Schools does not qualify for a weather-related waiver. In order to qualify for this waiver, Davidson County Schools would have to be closed eight days per year during any four of the last 10 years because of severe weather conditions, energy shortages, power failures, or other emergency situations. (G.S. 115C-84.2)

12) Does a State of Emergency, issued by the Governor, allow days to be waived?

No. A Governor-issued State of Emergency does not change the statutory requirements in G.S. 115C-84.2 for 185 instructional days or 1,025 instructional hours. The General Assembly is the only body that is authorized to waive the minimum instructional requirements.

13) How can the Superintendent make the decision about a make-up day without Board approval/prior to a Board meeting?

Davidson County Schools Board Policy states in Section 2.7 "Calendar Committee" Section E-8, "Changes in the calendar during the school year will be made by the Superintendent as necessary, but will require Board approval at the next regular meeting."

14) How do we give our input on the decisions to make-up time?

Each year we collect input on our "Inclement Weather/Make-up Time Survey." This survey is made available to parents and students in online and paper format as part of our school calendar communications sent home each year with the first report cards. The 2026-2027 survey results ranked as follows:

1. Extend the school day to make up instructional hours (1,749 points)
2. Add student days to the end of the year (1,588 points)
3. Reduce Spring Break incrementally with each day missed (1,511 points)
4. Make up instructional time as soon as possible i.e. Saturday School (1,191 points)

15.) If a teacher takes leave on an instructional day, how much leave do they take for a half of the day and what time should a substitute report?

All teachers earn leave at 7.5 hours a day and if they were to take leave for a half of the day, then they will only be docked 3.75 hours. The teacher will need to work for 4 hours until the sub reports to work.