

SCHOOL YEAR

A. School Year.

The student school year shall be a minimum of 180 instructional days or, alternatively, the equivalent number of hours as required in the rules of the N.H. Department of Education (see Ed 306.18).

The school year for teachers and other certified professionals shall be as per the applicable collective bargaining agreement unless otherwise determined by the Board or individual contract.

The school year for support staff shall be as per the applicable collective bargaining agreement unless otherwise determined by the Board or individual contract.

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

B. School Closures.

Any days that the schools are closed for emergency reasons and are not designated by the Superintendent as distance education days (see paragraph C below) 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/hours in the school year.

C. Distance Education During Inclement Weather.

If inclement weather makes it unsafe to safely transport students to or from in-person instruction, the Superintendent/designee is authorized to designate that day as a remote instruction or "distance learning". Before remote instruction/distance learning is used as instructional day for the purpose of satisfying the minimum instructional day/hour requirements of the N.H. Department of Education, the Superintendent shall ensure that a plan exists with procedures to promote and allow for participation by all students in any affected school.

Prior to approving designating a day as a remote instruction/distance learning day, or any school/district-wide distance education that is dependent on technology, the Superintendent/designee will consider the impact that the inclement weather event might have on necessary technology.

Distance education will only count toward required instructional days/time when conducted in accordance with N.H. Dept. of Education Rule Ed 306.22. See also Board policy IMBA.

D. School Calendar.

The school calendar will be developed by the Superintendent and submitted to the Board by the end of December. The Board should approve the final calendar by the second Board meeting in January. Any exceptions or revisions to the calendar thereafter must be approved in advance by the Board.

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

To the extent possible, the calendar will be coordinated with the school calendars of the area vocational schools, regional special education programs, and other districts in the SAU.

The high school graduation date shall be set 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/hours lost to inclement weather or other emergencies. See Ed 306.18(a)(4).

Legal References

RSA 189:1, Days of School

RSA 189:24, Standard School

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.18, School Year

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.19, School Calendar

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.22, Distance Education

Adopted: September 2, 1970

Revised: August 1, 2002

Revised: November 16, 2011

Revised: July 11, 2018

Revised: February 1, 2023