

INSTRUCTION

A school calendar shall be prepared annually to indicate pertinent dates and information essential to the operation of the division's schools. The calendar shall be planned by the superintendent and approved by the school board. However, due to extreme weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances, it may be necessary for the superintendent to make adjustments in the calendar in accordance with the plan approved by the board. The school calendar will be in compliance with the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education.

Legal Reference:

Code of Va., § 22.1-79. Powers and duties.--"A school board shall: . . . 5. Insofar as not inconsistent with State statutes and regulations of the Board of Education, operate and maintain the public schools in the school division and determine the length of the school term, . . ." (1997)

Code of Va., § 22.1-79.1. Opening of the school year.-- "A. Each local school board shall set the school calendar so that the first day students are required to attend school shall be after Labor Day. The Board of Education may waive this requirement on a showing of good cause. B. For purposes of this section, "good cause" means:

1. A school division has been closed an average of eight days per year during any five of the last ten years because of severe weather conditions, energy shortages, power failures, or other emergency situations;
2. A school division is providing, in the school year for which the waiver is sought, an instructional program or programs in one or more of its elementary or middle or high schools, excluding the electronic classroom, which are dependent on and provided in one or more elementary or middle or high schools of another school division that qualifies for such waiver. However, any waiver granted by the Board of Education pursuant to this subdivision shall only apply to the opening date for those schools where such dependent programs are provided; or
3. A school division is providing its students, in the school year for which the waiver is sought, with an experimental or innovative program which requires an earlier opening date than that established in subsection A of this section and which has been approved by the Department of Education pursuant to the regulations of the Board of Education establishing standards for accrediting public schools. However, any waiver or extension of the school year granted by the Board of Education pursuant to this subdivision or its standards for accrediting public schools for such an experimental or innovative program shall only apply to the opening date for those schools where such experimental or innovative programs are offered generally to the student body of the school. For the purposes of this subdivision, experimental or innovative programs shall include instructional programs which are offered on a year-round basis by the school division in one or more of its elementary or middle or high schools."

Code of Va., § 22.1-98. Reduction of State aid when length of school term below 180 days or 990 hours. (1990)

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Editor's Note § 22.1-98 is quoted as a legal reference to school policy # 4-16.

See also (State) Supts. Memo. No. 31, "Opening of Schools and Length of School Term." (March 27, 1991)

Adopted by School Board: June 19, 1973
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