

## INSTRUCTION

The length of the school day shall not be less than that required by the State Board of Education.

The hours of attendance for students shall be determined by the board on recommendation of the superintendent and shall take into consideration, but not be limited to, the ages of the students, the distance to and from school, bus scheduling, safety hazards and time needed to accomplish educational objectives.

Legal Reference

Virginia Board of Education Regulations, "Governing the Accreditation of Public Schools in Virginia." (September, 1997)

8VAC20-131-150. Standard school year and school day. A. The standard school year shall be 180 days. The standard school day for students in grades 1 through 12 shall average at least 5 hours, excluding intermissions for meals, and a minimum of three hours for kindergarten. School divisions may develop alternative schedules for meeting these requirements as long as a minimum of 990 hours of instructional time is provided for grades 1 through 12 and 540 hours for kindergarten. Such alternative plans must be approved by the local school board and by the Board of Education under guidelines established by the Board of Education. No alternative plan which reduces the instructional time in the core academics shall be approved.

B. All students in grades 1 through 12 shall maintain a full day schedule of classes (5 hours), unless a waiver is granted by the local superintendent of schools. Conditions of such waivers shall be defined by the local school board. (1998)

8VAC20-131-80. Instructional program in elementary schools. A. Each elementary school shall provide each student a program of instruction which corresponds to the Standards of Learning for English, mathematics, science, and history/social science. In addition, each school shall provide instruction in art, music, and physical education and health.

B. In grades K through 3, reading, writing, spelling, and mathematics shall be the core of the program. Schools shall maintain, in a manner prescribed by the board, an early skills and knowledge achievement record in reading and math for each student in grades K through 3 to monitor student progress and to promote successful achievement in the third grade SOL tests. This record shall be included with the student's records if the student transfers to a new school.

C. To provide students with sufficient opportunity to learn, a minimum of 75% of the annual instructional time of 990 hours shall be given to instruction in the disciplines of English, mathematics, science, and history/social science. Students who are not successfully progressing in early reading proficiency or who are unable to read the

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### School Day (continued)

materials necessary for instruction with comprehension shall receive additional instructional time in reading. (1998)

Adopted by School Board: June 19, 1973  
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