

The board believes that time is a variable in the educational process and that children may need different amounts of instructional time in order to fulfill the educational goals and objectives of the board. The board also recognizes that the school day and school year should be planned in such a manner as to facilitate student learning and to permit an accurate assessment of student achievement in scheduled testing periods.

A. INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

Interruptions of instructional time and time off task must be kept to a minimum. The principal is responsible for ensuring that instructional time is maintained and protected in the school schedule. Each teacher is responsible for ensuring optimal use of instructional time in his or her classes. School personnel are encouraged to seek creative means of reducing transitional time and scheduling non-instructional activities. A proposal for alternative scheduling of classes or other such strategies may be a part of a school improvement plan.

B. SCHOOL DAY

The length of the school day may vary from school to school if approved by the board of education, ~~subject to the minimum instructional hours requirement established in Section D, below.~~ The “instructional” day includes only those hours a student is assigned to a teacher for the primary purpose of instruction. Breaks in the instructional day for changing classes, homeroom, lunch, pep rallies and similar non-instructional activities are not part of the instructional day and may not be counted towards the minimum instructional hours requirement established in Section D, below.

C. OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

Except for year-round schools or schools operating under a modified calendar, the opening date for students will ~~not be before~~ no earlier than the Monday closest to August 25²⁶, and the closing date for students will ~~not be after~~ no later than the Friday closest to June 10¹¹.

The school board may offer supplemental or additional educational programs or activities outside the adopted school calendar.

Upon a showing of good cause, as defined ~~When allowed by law~~ G.S. 115C-84.2(d), the board will seek a waiver of the opening ~~and/or closing~~ dates from the State Board of Education ~~if the board determines that a waiver is in the best interest of the students and the school system.~~

The board will revise the closing date only if necessary to comply with the minimum requirements for instructional days or instructional time.

D. SCHOOL ~~YEAR~~CALENDAR

The school calendar in all schools will be for 215 days and will provide for a minimum of 185 days ~~and or~~ 1025 hours of instruction covering at least nine months. A school “month” is defined as 20 days of instruction. If school is closed early due to inclement weather, the day and the number of instructional hours originally scheduled may count towards the required minimum number of instructional days or hours. As funding permits, the board may pursue increasing the number of instructional hours or days, at least for those students who need more time to learn the curriculum.

~~If, upon request of the board, the State Board of Education grants a waiver of the 185 instructional day requirement to allow up to five of those days to be used as teacher workdays, the required number of instructional hours will be reduced by the equivalent of each instructional day waived.~~

The board may initiate or review recommendations from the superintendent or a school improvement team for modifying the traditional school calendar to a year-round ~~or extended~~ calendar. The superintendent and individual schools are encouraged to obtain input from teachers and other personnel as well as from the community in developing proposals for modifying the school calendar. ~~An extended school year or a~~ year-round school may be included as a part of a school improvement plan.

Any calendar adopted by the board will be consistent with the following requirements.

1. The calendar will consist of 215 days and shall meet state requirements for the minimum instructional days and/or the minimum instructional hours.
- ~~1.2.~~ At least Ten-10 of the days on the calendar will be designated as annual vacation leave days.
3. ~~Ten of the days on t~~The calendar will ~~be designated as include the same or an equivalent number of legal holidays as those designated by the State Human Resources Commission for State employees,~~ including Veteran’s Day if it falls on a weekday.
- ~~2.4.~~ School will not be scheduled on Sundays.
5. ~~The remaining 195 days are to be workdays for teachers. Those 195 days will be scheduled as follows.~~—The total number of workdays for teachers employed for a 10-month term will not exceed 195 days.
6. ~~One hundred and eighty-five days~~The calendar will designate be “instructional” days, when students ~~are must be~~ present. ~~These will be designated as “instructional” teacher workdays.~~

7. ~~The remaining 10 days will be scheduled by the board, in consultation with school principals, as “flexible” teacher workdays, and may be used by the board, superintendent or school principals for use as teacher workdays, additional instructional days or other lawful purposes. Each principal may schedule those days on the school calendar that have not been reserved by the board for other purposes.~~ Before scheduling these “flexible” days, each principal shall work with the school improvement team to determine the days to be scheduled and the purposes for which they should be scheduled.
8. ~~Of the 10 “flexible” teacher workdays described in subsection D.73.b, the board will designate at least two days as protected days on which teachers may take accumulated vacation leave. All other “flexible” days may be designated as days on which teachers may take accumulated leave, but the board will give teachers at least 14 calendar days’ notice before requiring a teacher to work instead of taking vacation leave on any of these days. A teacher may elect to waive this notice requirement for one or more of these days.~~
9. ~~Further, †The board may, due to school closings because of inclement weather or other reasons, use any of the “flexible” 10-days designated in subsection D.73.b above as make-up days for those instructional days that were missed. If necessary, these make-up days may be scheduled after the last day of student attendance. If either of the two protected days described in subsection D.8 above are scheduled as a make-up day, teachers may take accumulated vacation leave on the make-up day and will not be required to work. The board will give teachers at least 14 days’ notice before requiring a teacher to work instead of taking vacation leave on any of these days. A teacher may elect to waive this notice requirement for one or more of these days.~~
- ~~Further, if it is unable to schedule student makeup days until after the scheduled end of the school year, the school board may designate some of the “flexible” workdays described in subsection D.3.b above as additional make up days after the last day of student attendance.~~
10. ~~If the school calendar requires students to attend on Memorial Day, each principal shall ensure that students are instructed on the significance of Memorial Day is recognized in the school on that day. If students are not scheduled to attend school on Memorial Day, recognition of instruction on the significance of Memorial Day will be provided at another time as part of the citizenship curriculum (see policy 3530, Citizenship and Character Education).~~
11. ~~If the school calendar requires students to attend school on September 17, which is Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, each principal shall ensure that an educational program about the signing of the United States Constitution is commemorated held in the school on that day. If students are not required to attend school on September 17, the principal shall ensure that Constitution and Citizenship Daysuch a program is held commemorated during the week preceding~~

or following ~~Constitution Day and Citizenship Dayweek (see policy 3530, Citizenship and Character Education).~~

12. The month of November shall be designated “Veterans’ History Awareness Month.”

Legal References: P.L. 108-447, div. J, title I, sec. 111 (codified as a statutory note to 36 U.S.C. 106(d)); G.S. 115C-12(33), -36, -47, -84.2, -105.21(b)(2), -238.31, -288; State Board of Education Policy ~~GCS-G-001~~BEPL-001; N.C. *Employment Benefits and Policy Manual (most current version)*, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, available at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/district-humanresources/key-information>

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Citizenship and Character Education (policy 3530)

Adopted: December 4, 2012

Revised: