

STUDENT INSTRUCTION

School Year, Calendar, and Day

Subject to §§ 20-1-301 and 20-1-308, MCA, and the District’s collective bargaining agreement covering the employment of affected employees, the Board sets the number of days in a school term, the length of the school day, and the number of school days in a school week

When proposing to adopt changes to a previously adopted school term, school week, or school day, the Board shall: (a) if necessary, negotiate the changes with the recognized collective bargaining unit representing the employees affected by the changes; (b) solicit input from the employees affected by the changes but not represented by a collective bargaining agreement; and (c) solicit input from the people who live within the boundaries of the school district.

Saturday School

In emergencies, including during reasonable efforts of the trustees to make up aggregate hours of instruction lost during a declaration of emergency by the trustees under Section 20-9-806, MCA, pupil instruction may be conducted on a Saturday when it is approved by the trustees.

Pupil instruction may be held on a Saturday at the discretion of a school district for the purpose of providing additional pupil instruction beyond the minimum aggregate hours of instruction required in Section 20-1-301, MCA, provided student attendance is voluntary.

Commemorative Exercises

All classes shall conduct appropriate exercises during the school day on the commemorative days noted in Montana law.

School Holidays

The schools in the District shall be closed on the following holidays: New Year's Day; Memorial Day; Independence Day (2 days); Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day (2 days); Christmas Day; Martin Luther King Day; President’s Day; and State and national election days when the school building is used as a polling place and the conduct of school would interfere with the election process at the polling place. When these holidays fall on Saturday or Sunday, the preceding Friday or the succeeding Monday shall be a school holiday. The Board may establish other holidays.

School Fiscal Year

At least the minimum number of aggregate hours must be conducted during each school fiscal year. The minimum aggregate hours required by grade are:

- (a) A minimum of 360 aggregate hours for a kindergarten program;

- (b) 720 hours for grades 1 through 3;
- (c) 1,080 hours for grades 4 through 12; and
- (d) 1,050 hours may be sufficient for graduating seniors.

In addition, seven (7) pupil instruction-related days may be scheduled for the following purposes:

1. Pre-school staff orientation for the purpose of organization of the school year (2 days);
2. Staff professional development programs (minimum of three (3) days);
3. Parent/teacher conferences (2 days); or
4. Records days (not to exceed one (1) day at the end of each semester or quarter).

Professional Development

The district recognizes that training and development are fundamental to ensure the quality of its services to students. The Superintendent shall provide an organized program of professional development designed to assist staff in acquiring the skills needed to work with all students.

A District professional development advisory committee will review, develop, recommend, and evaluate the school district’s professional development plan. Each year the Board of Trustees shall be provided a copy of a professional development report for the previous school year.

Legal References:	§ 20-1-301, MCA	School fiscal year
	§ 20-1-302, MCA	School day and week
	§ 20-3-303, MCA	Conduct of school on Saturday or Sunday Prohibited – exceptions
	§ 20-1-305, MCA	School Holidays
	§ 20-1-306, MCA	Commemorative exercises on certain days
	§ 20-1-308, MCA	Religious instruction released time program
	ARM 10.65.101-103	Pupil-Instruction-Related Days
	ARM 10.55.714	Professional Development

Cross References:

Policy History:

Adopted on: 2.28.2012
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