



# School Calendar

## Length of School Year

Education Commission of the States

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### ***Number of Instructional Days/Hours in the School Year***

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### Introduction

While state requirements vary on the number of instructional days and/or hours in the school year, the majority of states require 180 days of student instruction. Most also specify the minimum length of time that constitutes an instructional day. Please note that some states set instructional time in days, others specify hours and some provide specifications for both.

Because staff development and parent conference days are handled differently across the states and often are included in the overall “school calendar” requirements, we have attempted to separate those from the minimum instructional time. However, in some cases, statute is unclear. Please send any corrections (with supporting state policy) to [kchristie@ecs.org](mailto:kchristie@ecs.org).

The following table lists the minimum number of instructional days/hours in a school year and the start dates prescribed by law, where specified. Forty states allow local districts or regions to determine when the school year begins.

### State Policies Related to the School Year

| State<br>[citation]  | Minimum Amount of Instructional<br>Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable) |   | Minimum time for<br>any day to count as<br>instructional day | School Start/Finish |
|--|---|---|--|---------------------|
|  | In Days   | In Hours  |  |                     |
| <b>Alabama</b><br><br>[ALA. CODE § 16-13-231(b)(1)(c)]<br>Admin. Code<br>290-3-1-.02 | 180 days  | N/A   | 6 hours  | District option     |
| <b>Alaska</b><br><br>[ALASKA STAT. §<br>14.03.030,<br>14.03.040]                     | 170 days<br><br>(plus up to 10 in-service<br>days)                      | Grades K-3 ~ 740 hours<br>Grades 4-12 ~ 900 hours | Grades 1-3 ~ 4<br>hours<br>Grades 4-12 ~ 5<br>hours          | District option     |

\* The minimum number of instructional days refers to the actual number of days that pupils have contact with a teacher. Teacher in-service and professional development days are specified when available.

| State<br>[citation]  | Minimum Amount of Instructional<br>Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable)  |  | Minimum time for<br>any day to count as<br>instructional day   | School Start/Finish  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | In Days  | In Hours   |  |  |
| <b>Arizona</b><br><br>[ARIZ. REV. STAT. §<br>15-341.01]  | 180 days <sup>1</sup>  | Kindergarten ~ 356 hours<br>Grades 1-3 ~ 712 hours<br>Grades 4-6 ~ 890 hours<br>Grades 7-8 ~ 1000 hours<br>9-12 students must enroll<br>in at least 4 subjects that<br>meet at least 720 hours | 4 hours, excluding<br>lunch and recess   | District option  |
| <b>Arkansas</b><br><br>[ARK. CODE ANN. §<br>6-10-106; 005 19<br>CARR §<br>007(10.01)]                                | 178 days<br><br>(plus minimum 10 days<br>[60 hrs] professional<br>development/in-service)  | N/A  | 6 hours/day or<br>30 hours/week  | <u>Start</u><br>No earlier than 8/14<br>and no later than<br>8/26 <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>California</b><br><br>[CAL. EDUC. CODE §<br>46200(c)]<br>41420(b),46200,4<br>6112,46113,4611<br>7,46141, 46201(a) | 180/175 days<br><br>Through 2014-15 charter<br>schools and districts are<br>allowed to shorten<br>instructional year by 5<br>days without fiscal<br>penalty. | Kindergarten ~ 600 hours<br>Grades 1-3 ~ 840 hours<br>Grades 4-8 ~ 900 hours<br>Grades 9-12 ~ 1080 hours   | Kindergarten ~<br>3 hours<br>Grades 1-3 ~<br>3.83 hours<br>Grades 4-12 ~<br>4 hours                              | District option  |
| <b>Colorado</b><br><br>[COLO. REV. STAT. §<br>22-32-109(1)(n)]   | 160 days   | Half-day K ~ 435 hours<br>Full-day K ~ 870 hours<br>Grades 1-5 ~ 968 hours<br>Grades 6-12 ~ 1056 hours   | N/A  | District option  |
| <b>Connecticut</b><br><br>[CONN. GEN. STAT. §<br>10-16]  | 180 days   | Half-day K ~ 450 hours<br>Full-day K ~ 900 hours<br>Grades 1-12 ~ 900 hours  | 5 hours<br>Districts may count<br>up to 7 hours per<br>school day towards<br>the total required<br>for the year. | District option  |
| <b>Delaware</b><br><br>[DEL. CODE ANN. tit.<br>14, § 1049(a)(1)]   | N/A  | Kindergarten ~ 440 hours<br>Grades 1-11 ~ 1060 hours<br>Grade 12 ~ 1032 hours  | District option,<br>must be at least<br>31.5 hours/week  | District option  |
| <b>District of<br/>Columbia</b><br><br>[D.C. MUN. REGS.<br>tit. 5, § 305]<br>A-2100.4,<br>A-2100.5                   | 178 days   | N/A  | Grades 1-12 ~<br>6 hours (including<br>lunch and recess)   | District option<br>(single district)   |

| State<br>[citation]  | Minimum Amount of Instructional<br>Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable)  |   | Minimum time for<br>any day to count as<br>instructional day                       | School Start/Finish  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  | In Days  | In Hours  |  |  |
| <b>Florida</b><br><br>[FLA. STAT. ch.<br>1003.02(1)(g)]<br>1001.42,,<br>1003.02(g)                                     | 180 days   | Grades K-3 ~ 720 hours<br>Grades 4-12 ~ 900 hours<br><br>For schools on double-<br>session or approved<br>experimental calendar:<br>Grades K-3 ~ 630 hours<br>Grades 4-12 ~ 810 hours | 5 hours  | District option  |
| <b>Georgia</b><br><br>[GA. CODE ANN. §<br>20-2-168(c); GA.<br>COMP. R. & REGS. r.<br>160-5-1-.01]<br>160-5-1-.02(2)(d) | 180 days   | Grades K-3 ~ 810 hours<br>Grades 4-5 ~ 900 hours<br>Grades 6-12 ~ 990 hours   | Grades K-3 ~<br>4.5 hours<br>Grades 4-5 ~<br>5 hours<br>Grades 6-12 ~<br>5.5 hours | District option  |
| <b>Hawaii</b> <sup>3</sup>   | 180 days beginning<br>w/2011-13 school years<br><br>(Does not apply to<br>charter and multi-track<br>schools)<br><br>Prior to the 2015 session,<br>dept. of education must<br>submit plan to increase<br>to 190 days, not including<br>charter schools and<br>multi-track public schools | Grades K-6 ~ 915 hours<br>(beg. In 2012-13)<br>Grades 7-12 ~ 990 hours<br>(for 2014-16 school<br>years).<br><br>(Does not apply to<br>charter or multi-track<br>schools)              | Grades K-5 ~<br>6 hours<br>Grades 6-12 ~<br>6.5 hours                              | District option<br>(single district)   |
| <b>Idaho</b><br><br>[IDAHO CODE § 33-<br>512(1)]   | N/A  | Kindergarten ~ 450 hours<br>Grades 1-3 ~ 810 hours<br>Grades 4-8 ~ 900 hours<br>Grades 9-12 ~ 990 hours <sup>4</sup><br><br>(includes 22 hours for<br>staff development)              | N/A  | District option  |
| <b>Illinois</b><br><br>[105 ILL. COMP.<br>STAT. 5/10-19]   | 176 days   | N/A   | Grades K-1 ~<br>4 hours<br>Grades 2-12 ~<br>5 hours                                | District option  |
| <b>Indiana</b><br><br>[IND. CODE § 20-<br>30-2-3]  | 180 days   | N/A   | Grades 1-6 ~<br>5 hours<br>Grades 7-12 ~<br>6 hours                                | District option  |
| <b>Iowa</b><br><br>[IOWA CODE §<br>279.10]   | 180 days   | N/A   | Grades 1-12 ~<br>5.5 hours/day or<br>27.5 hours/week                               | <u>Start</u><br>No earlier than day of<br>the week in which 9/1<br>falls and no later than<br>first Monday in Dec. |

| State<br>[citation]   | Minimum Amount of Instructional<br>Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable)  |  | Minimum time for<br>any day to count as<br>instructional day | School Start/Finish  |
|---|--|--|--|--|
|   | In Days  | In Hours   |  |  |
| <b>Kansas</b><br><br>[KAN. STAT. ANN. §<br>72-1106(a),(b)]  | Grades K-11 ~ 186 days<br>Grade 12 ~ 181 days  | Kindergarten ~ 465 hours<br>Grades 1-11 ~ 1116 hours<br>Grade 12 ~ 1086 hours      | N/A  | District option  |
| <b>Kentucky</b><br><br>[KY. REV. STAT. ANN.<br>§ 158.070]   | 175<br><br>(185-day calendar that<br>includes 175 instructional<br>plus 4 days for<br>professional<br>development & other<br>such as non-pupil<br>contact, holidays, etc.) | 1062 hours   | 6 hours  | District option  |
| <b>Louisiana</b><br><br>[LA. REV. STAT. ANN.<br>§ 17:154.1; LA.<br>ADMIN. CODE tit.<br>28, § CXV:333]             | 177 days<br><br>(plus 2 days for staff<br>development)   | 1062 hours   | 6 hours (360<br>minutes)<br>(excluding recess)               | District option  |
| <b>Maine</b><br><br>[ME. REV. STAT.<br>ANN. tit. 20-A, §<br>4801]   | 175 days<br><br>(plus no more than 5 days<br>for in-service education)   | N/A  | N/A  | District option <sup>5</sup>   |
| <b>Maryland</b><br><br>[MD. CODE ANN.,<br>EDUC. § 7-103]  | 180 days   | 1080 hours   | Grades 1-12 ~<br>6 hours                                     | District option  |
| <b>Massachusetts</b><br><br>[MASS. GEN. LAWS<br>ch. 69, § 1G;<br>MASS. REGS. CODE<br>tit. 603, § 27.03,<br>27.04] | 180 days   | Kindergarten ~ 425 hours<br>Grades 1-5 ~ 900 hours<br>Grades 6-12 ~ 990 hours      | N/A  | District option  |
| <b>Michigan</b><br><br>[MICH. COMP. LAWS<br>§§ 388.1701<br>(3)(a)]  | 165 days<br>(170 days effective 2012-<br>13)   | 1098 hours   | N/A  | <u>Start</u><br>No earlier than<br>Labor Day   |
| <b>Minnesota</b><br><br>[MINN. STAT. §§<br>120A.40, 41]   | N/A  | Kindergarten ~ 425 hours<br>Grades 1-6 ~ 935 hours<br>Grades 7-12 ~ 1,020<br>hours | N/A  | <u>Start</u><br>No earlier than<br>Labor Day<br>(although there are<br>exceptions to the<br>requirement) |

| State<br>[citation]   | Minimum Amount of Instructional<br>Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable) |   | Minimum time for<br>any day to count as<br>instructional day  | School Start/Finish  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
|   | In Days   | In Hours  |   |  |
| <b>Mississippi</b><br><br>[MISS. CODE ANN.<br>§§ 37-13-61, 63]  | 180 days  | N/A   | 5.5 hours<br>(mandatory total of<br>27.5 hours/week)  | District option  |
| <b>Missouri</b><br><br>[MO. REV. STAT. §<br>171.031]  | 5-day week ~ 174 days<br>4-day week ~ 142 days                          | 1044 hours  | 5-day week ~<br>3 hours<br>4-day week ~<br>4 hours  | <u>Start</u><br>No earlier than 10<br>days prior to first<br>Monday in September |
| <b>Montana</b><br><br>[MONT. CODE ANN.<br>§ 20-1-301; MONT.<br>ADMIN. R.<br>10.65.101]                                  | N/A   | Half-day K ~ 360 hours<br>Grades K-3 ~ 720 hours<br>Grades 4-12 ~ 1080<br>hours <sup>6</sup><br><br>(plus an additional 3 days<br>for instructional and<br>professional<br>development) | N/A   | District option  |
| <b>Nebraska</b><br><br>[NEB. REV. STAT. §§<br>79-211, 212]  | N/A   | Kindergarten ~ 400 hours<br>Grades 1-8 ~ 1032 hours<br>Grades 9-12 ~ 1080 hours   | N/A   | District option  |
| <b>Nevada</b><br><br>[NEV. REV. STAT.<br>388.090]   | 180 days  | N/A   | Kindergarten ~<br>2 hours<br>Grades 1-2 ~<br>4 hours<br>Grades 3-6 ~<br>5 hours<br>Grades 7-12 ~<br>5.5 hours<br><br>(all, including recess<br>and time between<br>lessons, excluding<br>lunch) | District option  |
| <b>New Hampshire</b><br><br>[N.H. REV. STAT.<br>ANN. § 189:1; N.H.<br>CODE ADMIN. R.<br>ANN. EDUC.<br>306.18(b)(1),(2)] | 180 days  | Grades 1-5 ~ 945 hours<br>Grades 6-12 ~ 990 hours   | Grades K-5 ~<br>5.25 hours<br>Grades 6-8 ~<br>5.5 hours   | District option  |
| <b>New Jersey</b><br><br>[N.J. STAT. ANN. §<br>18A:7F-9]  | 180 days  | N/A   | 4 hours (excluding<br>lunch and recess)   | District option  |

| State<br>[citation]   | Minimum Amount of Instructional<br>Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable)   |   | Minimum time for<br>any day to count as<br>instructional day  | School Start/Finish  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
|   | In Days   | In Hours  |   |  |
| <b>New Mexico</b><br><br>[N.M. STAT. ANN.<br>§§ 22-8-9(A)(1),<br>22-2-8.1]  | 180 days  | Half-day K ~ 450 hours<br>Full-day K ~ 990 hours<br>Grades 1-6 ~ 990 hours <sup>7</sup><br>Grades 7-12 ~ 1080 hours           | Half-day K ~<br>2.5 hours<br>Full-day K ~<br>5.5 hours<br>Grades 1-6 ~<br>5.5 hours<br>Grades 7-12 ~<br>6 hours             | District option  |
| <b>New York</b><br><br>[N.Y. EDUC. LAW §<br>3604(7)]                        | 180 days  | N/A   | Half-day K ~<br>2.5 hours<br>Full-day K ~ 5 hours<br>Grades 1-6 ~<br>5 hours<br>Grades 7-12 ~<br>5.5 hours                  | District option  |
| <b>North Carolina</b><br><br>[N.C. GEN. STAT. §<br>115C-<br>84.2(a)(1),(d)] | 180 days  | 1000 hours  | 5.5 hours   | <i>Start</i><br>No earlier than 8/25<br><br><i>Finish</i><br>Not after June 10 |
| <b>North Dakota</b><br><br>[N.D. CENT CODE §<br>15.1-06-04]                 | 175<br>(182-day calendar, with<br>175 days required for<br>instruction; 2 days must<br>be used for professional<br>development and up to 2<br>days must be used for<br>parent-teacher<br>conferences) | Any reconfigured school<br>year must include at<br>least:<br>Grades K-8 ~ 951.5 hours<br>Grades 9-12 ~ 1038 hours             | Grades K-6 ~<br>5.5 hours<br>Grades 7-12 ~<br>6 hours   | District option  |
| <b>Ohio</b><br><br>[OHIO REV. CODE<br>ANN. § 3313.48]                       | 182 days<br><br>(including up to two days<br>professional<br>development and up to<br>4 days for parent<br>conferences and<br>reporting)  | 910 hours   | Grades K-6 ~<br>5 hours (including 2<br>15-minute recesses)<br><br>Grades 7-12 ~<br>5 hours (excluding<br>lunch and recess) | District option  |
| <b>Oklahoma</b><br><br>[OKLA. STAT. tit. 70,<br>§ 1-109]                    | 180 days<br><br>(includes up to 5 days<br>used for professional<br>meetings)  | Grades 1-6 ~ 900 hours<br>Grades 7-12 ~ 1080 hours<br><br>(includes 6<br>hours/semester for<br>parent-teacher<br>conferences) | 6 hours   | District option  |

| State<br>[citation]  | Minimum Amount of Instructional<br>Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable)   |  | Minimum time for<br>any day to count as<br>instructional day                                  | School Start/Finish   |
|--|---|--|---|---|
|  | In Days   | In Hours   |   |   |
| <b>Oregon</b><br><br>[OR. ADMIN. R.<br>581-022-1620]             | N/A   | Kindergarten ~ 405 hours<br>Grades 1-3 ~ 810 hours<br>Grades 4-8 ~ 900 hours<br>Grades 9-12 ~ 990 hours <sup>8</sup> | N/A   | District option   |
| <b>Pennsylvania</b><br><br>[22 PA. CODE §<br>11.1]               | 180 days  | Kindergarten ~ 450 hours<br>Grades 1-8 ~ 900 hours<br>Grades 9-12 ~ 990 hours  | Kindergarten ~<br>2.5 hours<br>Grades 1-8 ~<br>5 hours<br>Grades 9-12 ~<br>5.5 hours          | District option   |
| <b>Rhode Island</b><br><br>[R.I. GEN. LAWS §<br>16-2-2]          | 180 days  | N/A  | Kindergarten ~<br>2.75 hours<br>Grades 1-12 ~<br>5.5 hours<br>(excluding recess<br>and lunch) | District option   |
| <b>South Carolina</b><br><br>[S.C. CODE ANN. §<br>59-1-425]      | 180 days<br><br>(plus 3 days for<br>mandatory professional<br>development, up to 2 for<br>prof. dev. and up to 5 for<br>planning, parent conf.,<br>etc. to total 190 days ) | N/A  | 6 hours<br><br>(elementary:<br>including lunch;<br>secondary:<br>excluding lunch)             | <u>Start</u><br>No earlier than third<br>Monday in August   |
| <b>South Dakota</b><br><br>[S.D. CODIFIED LAWS<br>§§ 13-26-1,9]  | N/A   | Kindergarten ~<br>437.5 hours <sup>9</sup><br>Grades 1-3 ~ 875 hours<br>Grades 4-12 ~<br>962.5 hours <sup>10</sup>   | N/A   | <u>Start</u><br>No earlier than the<br>first Tuesday following<br>the first Monday in<br>September <sup>11</sup>    |
| <b>Tennessee</b><br><br>[TENN. CODE ANN. §<br>49-6-3004]         | 180 days<br><br>(plus 5 days for in-service<br>and one day for parent-<br>teacher conferences)  | N/A  | 6.5 hours   | <u>Start</u><br>No earlier than<br>Tuesday after Labor<br>Day unless changed by<br>majority vote of<br>school board |
| <b>Texas</b><br><br>[TEX. EDUC. CODE<br>ANN. §§ 25.081,<br>0811] | 180 days  | N/A  | 7 hours<br>(including recess<br>and break hours)  | <u>Start</u><br>No earlier than the<br>fourth Monday in<br>August (unless a<br>waiver is granted)                   |

| State<br>[citation]   | Minimum Amount of Instructional<br>Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable) |   | Minimum time for<br>any day to count as<br>instructional day   | School Start/Finish   |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|   | In Days   | In Hours  |  |   |
| <b>Utah</b><br><br>[UTAH ADMIN. CODE<br>R277-419-<br>3(A),4(C)] | 180 days  | Kindergarten ~ 450 hours<br>Grade 1 ~ 810 hours<br>Grades 2-12 ~ 990 hours      | N/A  | District option   |
| <b>Vermont</b><br><br>[VT. STAT. ANN. tit.<br>16, § 1071]       | 175 days  | N/A   | Kindergarten ~<br>2 hours/day or<br>10 hours/week<br>Grades 1-2 ~<br>4 hours/day or<br>20 hours/week<br>Grades 3-12 ~<br>5.5 hours/day or<br>27.5 hours/week | Determined regionally   |
| <b>Virgin Islands</b><br><br>[17 V.I. CODE § 61]                | N/A   | 1080 hours  | N/A  | <i>Start</i><br>No earlier than first<br>Tuesday after first<br>Monday in August<br><br><i>Finish</i><br>No later than second<br>Friday in June |
| <b>Virginia</b><br><br>[VA. CODE ANN. §§<br>22.1-79.1, 98]      | 180 days  | Kindergarten ~ 540 hours<br>Grades 1-12 ~ 990 hours                             | 5.5 hours  | <i>Start</i><br>After Labor Day<br>(unless a waiver is<br>granted)  |
| <b>Washington</b><br><br>[WASH. REV. CODE<br>§§ 28A.150.220]    | 180 days  | Kindergarten ~ 450 hours<br>Grades 1-6 ~ 1000 hours<br>Grades 7-12 ~ 1080 hours | N/A  | District option   |
| <b>West Virginia</b><br><br>[W. VA. CODE § 18-<br>5-45(c),(e)]  | 180 days  | N/A   | 5.5 hours (including<br>extra-curriculars<br>and co-curriculars)   | <i>Start</i><br>No earlier than 8/26<br><br><i>Finish</i><br>No later than 6/8  |
| <b>Wisconsin</b><br><br>[WIS. STAT. §<br>121.02(1)(f)]          | 180 days  | Kindergarten ~ 437 hours<br>Grades 1-6 ~ 1050 hours<br>Grades 7-12 ~ 1137 hours | N/A  | District option   |
| <b>Wyoming</b><br><br>[WYO. STAT. ANN. §<br>21-4-301]           | 180 days  | N/A   | N/A  | District option   |

| State<br>[citation]                            | Minimum Amount of Instructional<br>Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable) |          | Minimum time for<br>any day to count as<br>instructional day | School Start/Finish |
|--|---|----------|--|---------------------|
|  | In Days   | In Hours |  |                     |
| Wyoming<br><br>[WYO. STAT. ANN. §<br>21-4-301] | 180 days  | N/A      | N/A  | District option     |

### Other ECS Resources on Instructional Time

- For information on the minimum number of instructional minutes/hours specified for high schools, please see the ECS StateNote titled *Minimum Number of Minutes/Hours in a High School Day*, or follow this [link](#).
- For information on what cannot count toward official instructional time, please see the ECS StateNote titled *What Cannot Count Toward Official Instructional Time?*, or follow this [link](#).
- For more information on the four-day school week, click [here](#) and [here](#).
- For extending instructional time, see *Learning Time in America: Trends to Reform the American School Calendar*, a report from the National Center on Time and Learning and the Education Commission of the States.
  - Full report: <http://www.timeandlearning.org/images/lta.pdf>
  - Executive summary: <http://www.timeandlearning.org/learningtimeinamerica/ES%20Learning%20Time%20in%20America.pdf>
  - State Policymaker’s Guide (4-pager): <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/94/32/9432.pdf>

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<sup>1</sup> Or equivalent number of minutes of instruction per year

<sup>2</sup> School year may begin on 8/18 only if it falls on a Monday; otherwise, the school year may begin no earlier than 8/19.

<sup>3</sup> According to Hawaii teachers’ contracts, the teacher work year is no more than 190 days, 10 of which are non-instructional days - Sandra Goya, Communications Director, Hawaii Department of Education.

<sup>4</sup> Instructional time for grade 12 may be reduced by up to 11 hours.

<sup>5</sup> Districts must work within regional units to coordinate with their career and technical center units to ensure that, among other requirements, there are not more than 9 dissimilar instructional days within each regional calendar.

<sup>6</sup> For graduating seniors, 1050 aggregate hours is sufficient.

<sup>7</sup> Thirty-three hours of the full-day kindergarten program may be used for home visits by the teacher or for parent-teacher conferences.

Twenty-two hours of grades one through five programs may be used for home visits by the teacher or for parent-teacher conferences.

<sup>8</sup> If approved by the local school board, instructional time for seniors may be reduced by up to 30 hours.

<sup>9</sup> Effective July 1, 2010

<sup>10</sup> School boards may release graduating seniors prior to the end of the school year.

<sup>11</sup> Schools may start before this date if referred to voters of the district by petition.

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