

Instruction**School Day for Students**

The school day shall be scheduled in such a way that students are given the best opportunity for their educational growth and development. The Board of Education recognizes that the instructional program includes academic classes, Teacher Advisement Period or similar time allotments, athletics, activities, contests, assemblies, clubs, recess, field trips, passing time and other planned instructional activities. The Board of Education further recognizes from time to time these compete for the attention of individual students and professional staff. It is the intent of the Board of Education that the first priority be given to the regular instructional program during the hours that school is in session. Therefore, effort should be made to limit, as much as possible, students and teachers missing school for participation in activities other than the academic program. Within this framework, the superintendent should try to maintain a balanced program of academic studies and other instructional activities within the total instructional program. The length of the day, and the arrangement of time segments within it, need not be uniform for all grade levels.

- A) The length of the school day shall not conflict with laws of the State of Nebraska nor with rules and regulations of the State Board of Education or Department of Education.
- B) The hours of opening and closing each type of school shall be determined by the Superintendent of Schools. The superintendent is authorized to modify these hours and/or suspend operation of schools when, in his judgement, disruptions, weather, act of God or any other conditions dictate the he do so for emergency reasons to protect the health and safety of students and staff members. The superintendent may authorize changes to daily school schedule to accommodate special events or other circumstances that may occupy a portion of the day.
- C) In designing the student day, the following considerations are to be met:
 - 1. The learning activities of each student are carefully guided and supervised.
 - 2. Each student has opportunities to receive individual assistance from teachers outside of the regular school day.
 - 3. Parents shall be informed of late starts or early dismissal.
 - 4. Early dismissal for student employment shall be tied to the curriculum and subject to approval of the building administration. Early dismissal of other students shall be reasons of health, etc., and must be validated by the student's parent or guardian.
 - 5. Principals may also approve requests to reduce the school day for individual students within the following guidelines:
 - a) An unusual set of circumstances, which would prevent the student from continuing his or her education.

- b) Prolonged illness, physical or psychological disability, or other disability, which would prevent the student from educationally benefitting from a regular school day.
 - c) The existence of unusual circumstances, which indicate the program of the school, can no longer meet the needs of the student.
 - d) Severe financial hardship of the family requiring a secondary student to be employed or to provide childcare for a sibling.
 - e) Instructional time requirements as documented in the verified handicapped student's Individual Education Program (I.E.P.).
6. Changes in the school day shall be subject to the approval of the Superintendent.

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