



Overview of Commissioner's Regulations Re: School Calendar



BOE Meeting
April 24, 2018

2017-18 School Year (Current NYS Regulations)

School Districts must provide 180 days of instruction

Full day Kindergarten - 6th grade: 5 hours of instruction/day (minimum)

Grades 7 - 12: 5.5 hours of instruction/day (minimum)

2017-18 School Year

We have 182 Days in our School Year. This year, those days were as follows:

3 Superintendent's Conference Days

1 WBTA Conference Day

1 Snow Conference Day

1 Parent/Teacher Conference Day

+ **176 Instructional Days**

182 Days

2017-18 School Year (Supt. Conf. Days)

Since we can ONLY count 4 conference days, each instructional day must be full day (or contractual allowance) in order to reach 180 days:

- 4 Superintendent's/WBTA/Parent Teacher Conference Days
- + **176 Instructional Days (FULL DAYS or Contractual Language)**
- 180 Days

2017-18 School Year (Supt. Conf. Days)

As discussed at our last Board meeting, we will have to change the end of year dismissal schedule at the Elementary Buildings and the JHS to reflect this - **from this school year on.**

We have the following WBTA contract language:

“On the last Thursday of the school year, children in grades k - 5 will be in session for a half day only. Teachers are to remain in school until the end of the regular school day.”

(If requested, the District would be open to change “Thursday” to the “last day of the school year”.)

2018-19 School Year (New Regulations)

- Annual hours must still be provided over 180 school days pursuant to Education Law 3604
- Replaces the Daily Minimum Hours requirement with the following Annual Aggregate Minimum Hours requirement:
 - 450 hours for half-day kindergarten
 - 900 hours for grades K - 6
 - 990 hours for grades 7 - 12

New State Regulations

School Districts must provide 180 days of instruction and meet the following hours requirement:

PreKindergarten:	450 hours of instruction/year (minimum)
Full day Kindergarten - 6th grade:	900 hours of instruction/year (minimum)
Grades 7 - 12:	990 hours of instruction/year (minimum)

In “Session”...

- includes the period of time in which instruction is provided:
 - Traditional classroom instructional activities
 - Supervised study periods
 - Supervised cooperative work study
 - School to work programs/ college study
- Does NOT include lunch, recess or passing time in the hours counted
- Must be held between September 1 and the rating day in June.
- May NOT be held on legal holidays or Saturdays

Current “In-Session Hours”

K-5: 6 “periods” @ 48 minutes
+ “Homeroom/Advisory” @ 5 minutes
4.9 hours/day (LESS THEN THE REQUIRED 5 hours a day)

6-12: 8 periods @ 40 minutes
+ “Homeroom/Advisory” @ 5 minutes
5.4 hours/day (LESS THEN THE REQUIRED 5.5 hours a day)

Superintendent's Conference Days

- Up to four (4) days worth of conference hours (10, 20, 22 hours) may be used as full or partial days toward the minimum aggregate annual requirement to be used as full or partial days toward the minimum aggregate annual requirement. Once the 20 or 22 hours allotted for conference days is exhausted, parent teacher conferences will not count.
- Districts may schedule as many superintendent conference days/ hours as it sees fit during the last two weeks of August, subject to collective bargaining requirements.

West Babylon's School Year

We have 182 Days in a school year. That typically is comprised of:

3 Superintendent's Conference Days

1 WBTA Conference Day

1 Parent/Teacher Conference Day

+ 177 Instructional Days

182 Days

West Babylon's School Year

Since we can ONLY count 4 conference days, our new calendar is based on:

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \text{ Superintendent's/WBTA/Parent Teacher Conference Days} \\ + \quad \underline{177 \text{ Instructional Days}} \\ \hline 181 \text{ Days} \end{array}$$

K - 5 Annual Instructional Hours

In grades K-5 hours that is equal to:

$$\begin{array}{r} 20 \text{ Hours (4 Superintendent's/WBTA/Parent Teacher Conference Days)} \\ + \quad \underline{864 \text{ Hours (177 Instructional Days)}} \\ \hline 884 \text{ Hours (6 hours less than the 900 hour requirement)} \end{array}$$

What does this mean for WB Grades K - 5?

In grades K-5 hours that is equal to:

$$\begin{aligned} & 20 \text{ Hours (4 Superintendent's/WBTA/Parent Teacher Conference Days)} \\ + & \text{ 864 Hours (177* Instructional Days)} \\ & \text{884 Hours (6 hours less than the 900 hour requirement*)} \end{aligned}$$

By changing one conference day to an instructional day - we will have a total of 178* instructional days for the year - 889 hours - which would still be ONE* hour short.

We will meet with the elementary principals to develop a plan.

7 - 12 Annual Instructional Hours

In grades 7-12 hours that is equal to:

22 Hours (4 Superintendent's/WBTA/Parent Teacher Conference Days)

+ 177 Instructional Days

981 Hours (9 hours less than the 990 hour requirement)*

What does this mean for WB Grades 7-12?

In grades 7-12 hours that is equal to:

$$\begin{aligned} & 22 \text{ Hours (4 Superintendent's/WBTA/Parent Teacher Conference Days)} \\ + & \text{ 177 Instructional Days} \\ & \text{981 Hours (9 hours less than the 990 hour requirement)*} \end{aligned}$$

By changing one conference day to an instructional day - we will have a total of 178 instructional days for the year and 986.5 hours - which would still be 3.5* hours short.

- *We will meet with the JHS and SHS administration team to review student passing time and homeroom/advisory time.*

Shortened Days

The “hour” flexibility removes restrictions on when shortened session days of staff development or parent teacher conferences may be used (these do not count towards the minimum)

Districts that currently utilize shortened instruction days will be able to schedule conferences and other activities they deem appropriate, within the 180 day calendar, so long as they meet the ANNUAL total minimum hours of instruction. Meaning a shortened session day or half day will count toward the 180 day requirement but only student instructional hours will count toward the annual hourly requirement.... Parent teacher conferences or staff development hours will not count towards the hourly requirement if those hours exceed the allotted amount for Superintendent Conference Days of 22 hours per year or 20 hours for K-6.

State Aid Implications

- For each day below the 180 day requirement, a district loses 1/180th of its Foundation Aid allocation the following year (*approximately \$131,000*)
- Districts that are above the daily minimum will now have those extra instructional hours count

Extraordinary Conditions

- The new regulations permits up to two (2) hours to count as instructional hours for state aid purposes on shortened days due to a delay or early release provided that the Superintendent certifies to the State Education Department that an extraordinary condition existed on a previously scheduled session day and that school was in session that day
- Snow days must be made up if a school district is otherwise going to fall below the requisite 180 days.
- The Commissioner may forgive up to five days for extraordinary conditions - but ONLY if the district has fully exhausted its remaining vacation days.
- Emergency declarations by the governor or municipal executives do not alone forgive districts for not holding session on those days
- The Department has proposed legislation to provide relief from the requirement on days where schools must be closed for reasons that are outside the district's control such as a state of emergency declared by the Governor. Districts are expected to plan for the average number of closures from snow days it has called over the previous five years.

Next Steps...

- Follow up informational meeting will be held with WBTA officers.
- Notification Letters:
 - Letter noting end of the year dismissal times will be sent to parents and to all employees
- We will amend our 18-19 calendar to reflect four (4) total conference days.

Thank you for your time!