WHAT'S CHANGING IN OHIO EDUCATION

Days to Hours

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, minimum hours of instruction replace the long standing calendar of school days for traditional school districts, joint vocational school districts and chartered nonpublic schools.

What are minimum hours?

School districts, joint vocational school districts and chartered nonpublic schools must be open for instruction for a minimum of:

- 455 hours for students in half-day kindergarten;
- 910 hours for students in full-day kindergarten through Grade 6; and
- 1,001 hours for students in Grades 7-12

Community schools must be open for instruction for at least 920 hours per year. This does not represent a change.

When is open for instruction?

Open for instruction includes time when the district or building is open and all students are participating in:

- Regularly scheduled classes;
- Supervised activities, such as assemblies;
- Approved education options; and
- Co-curricular activities during the scheduled school day.

As part of the minimum hours, districts and schools may use:

- Up to two equivalent days for the purpose of individualized parent-teacher conferences and reporting periods;
- Up to two equivalent days for the purpose of professional meetings of teachers; and
- Morning and afternoon recess periods of no more than fifteen minutes each for students in Grades kindergarten through 6.

Time spent during lunch periods, breakfast periods and extracurricular activities does not count as open for instruction. A schedule must include five days in each week.

Collective Bargaining Agreements

The change from days to hours does not apply to collective bargaining agreements executed prior to July 1, 2014. These districts remain subject to current requirements on the number of days in a school year, including calamity days.

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