

Update on the Minimum School Year and How Students Count as Full Time

The General Assembly recently passed legislation to modify the way students in high school count for funding. Starting March 23, 2015, full-time equivalency for these students is based on how many graduation units the student is enrolled in for the current school year.

This change in law only applies to the calculation of full-time equivalency for individual students. It does not change the minimum school year required for school buildings. Schools still must be open with all students having access to educational services for the required number of hours (or days for districts that have not yet transitioned to hours). For more information on the minimum school year, please visit the department's [website](#).

The change in full-time equivalency modifies the way that the student percent of time is calculated for students in grades 9-12 within the state's EMIS data reporting system. Currently, the full-time equivalency is based on the percentage of the normal school day that a student is enrolled. Starting March 23, the percent of time is based on the total number of graduation units ("credits"):

- For courses that the student has already completed in the current school year;
- For courses in which the student is currently enrolled; and
- For courses yet to start in the current school year in which the student is enrolled.

Only courses eligible for high school graduation credit, as outlined in law, will count. This includes the main subject areas and electives. However, study halls and other non-credit courses are not included in this calculation.

If this total number of credits for a student is five or more, the student is a full-time student in Ohio. The district where the student is enrolled will report the student as 100 percent of time. If the student's total credit enrollment for the year is less than five credits, the percent of time reported for that student will be the total credit enrollment divided by five.

This change in law affects other aspects of calculating full-time equivalency, including concurrent enrollment. The department is creating an FAQ document to address these specific issues that will be available on a website dedicated to guidance on this change by the end of the month.