

**Minimum School Year/School Day Summary
Pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code (ORC)**

Revised 10/12/12

Topics	Explanation and Rationale
School Calendar (ORC 3313.48)	<p>Each school district’s calendar should indicate – excluding holidays – a minimum of 182 days, which constitute the school year. This means a person should be able to review a school district calendar and count the days from the first day of school to the last day of school, excluding holidays, and arrive at 182.</p> <p>A district may exceed the 182-day minimum requirement. This is a local decision.</p>
Variations on the School Year ¹ <i>Trimester</i> <i>Quarterly</i> <i>Pentamester</i>	<p>For those school districts operating on a trimester plan, each trimester shall not have less than 79 days that the school was actually open for instruction with pupils in attendance.</p> <p>For those districts operating on a quarterly plan, each quarter shall not have less than 59 days that the school was actually open for instruction with pupils in attendance.</p> <p>For those school districts operating on a pentamester plan, each pentamester shall not have less than 44 days that the school was actually open for instruction with pupils in attendance.</p>
Parent-Teacher Conference and Reporting Period Days (ORC 3313.48 (A))	<p>Of the 182 days in the school district calendar, the district calendar may show up to two full days when school is not in session for the purpose of parent-teacher conferences. (The statute states that “up to four school days per year in which classes are dismissed one-half day early or the equivalent amount of time during a different number of days.”)</p> <p>The parent teacher conferences can be held during the time of dismissal or in the evening. The meetings do not have to be held during the time school is dismissed. (Attorney General Opinion No. 85-015)</p> <p>Additionally, the conference may be held for an equivalent of one half day in the evening of a day that students are in attendance. Some districts use this approach which, for two such extra half days, allows a day in which students are not in attendance and no conferences are being held to meet the “parent-teacher” conference “test”.</p>
	<p>If a school district does not utilize these days, this does not allow the district to shorten the length of the school year, or otherwise reduce the number of days in the school calendar. Nor does it increase the number of available calamity days.</p>
Professional Meetings of Teacher Days (ORC 3313.48 (B))	<p>Of the 182 days of the school district calendar, the district calendar may show up to two days for professional meetings of teachers. These days should occur during the regular school week and would be days when school is not in session and students are not present.</p> <p>Again, if a school district does not utilize these days, this does not allow the district to shorten the length of the school year, or otherwise reduce the number of days in the school calendar, nor does it increase the number of available calamity days.</p>

¹ variations must be approved by the Ohio Department of Education’s Office of Educational Reform

**Minimum School Year/School Day Summary
Pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code (ORC)**

Revised 10/12/12

Topics	Explanation and Rationale
Calamity Days	<p>Over the course of the school year, the school district may cancel school and be granted a waiver (meaning that the day need not be made up) for the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disease epidemic; Hazardous weather conditions; Law enforcement emergencies; Inoperability of school buses or other equipment necessary to the school’s operation; Damage to a school building; Other temporary circumstances due to utility failure rendering the school building unfit for use. <p>The Department of Education cannot approve requests for calamity day waivers for schools closed for reasons not listed above. Situations for which waivers have been denied in the past include: death of a student, teacher, or community leader and athletic team participation in state level competitions.</p> <p>The Superintendent of Public Instruction may waive days for calamities if “the number of days the school was actually open for instruction with pupils in attendance and for individualized parent-teacher conference and reporting periods is not less than 175.”</p> <p>The commonly held belief there are five calamity days is derived from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The district starts with the minimum 182-day calendar; The district schedules both of the two days allowed for parent-teacher conference and reporting, (thereby resulting in 180 days of “pupils in attendance”); The district schedules the full two days for professional meetings, (thereby resulting in 178 days of “pupils in attendance”); The total number of planned days with students in attendance and for individualized parent-teacher conference and reporting periods is 180 (178+2). The difference between this number and the 175 number stated in law is five. <p>If a district does not utilize the two days for parent teacher conferences and reporting, it does not provide the district with any additional calamity days, even though the number of days in attendance by students would be higher.</p> <p>The only way a district can have more than five calamity days is if the school calendar, to begin with, is set with more than 182 days. In such cases, a waiver from the State Superintendent is not required, schools can be closed and the calendar adjusted by action of the district.</p> <p>Closing of schools for these types of circumstances may be approved by a local Board of Education; however, such days must be made up to the extent they would not put a district below the number of days otherwise required by law.</p>

**Minimum School Year/School Day Summary
Pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code (ORC)**

Revised 10/12/12

Topics	Explanation and Rationale
Two-Hour Delay or Two Hour Early Dismissal (One hour for half-day Kindergarten)	<p>A school district would not be considered to have failed to meet the 182-day requirement because schools were open for instruction, but the length of the regularly scheduled school day was reduced by not more than two hours due to hazardous weather conditions. This can be applied to any number of days during the school year without requiring the use of a “calamity” day or requiring that the time be made up. Districts are required to make up days for which the time lost is in excess of two hours (one hour for half-day kindergarten). (ORC 3317.01 (B))</p> <p>The one-hour standard for half-day kindergarten was developed based on one hour being proportionally the same percentage as two hours for students in grades 1-6 (40%). The practical implications of this are as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">If a morning kindergarten session is delayed two hours, to avoid making the day up, the morning session should be extended to ensure that the school day for the morning kindergarten students was not reduced by more than one hour.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">If an afternoon kindergarten session is dismissed more than one hour early, it cannot be counted as a day of class.</p> <p>When the kindergarten day is canceled, or reduced by more than one hour, a waiver for a “calamity” day should be requested. If the number of “calamity” days exceeds five days, those days, in excess of five, must be made up according to the district’s contingency plan, or with additional makeup days.</p>
Kindergarten Phase-In Days	Kindergarten students may be phased-in with only certain pupils in attendance for up to three days during any one school year. (ORC Section 3317.01)
Seniors Excused From Attendance (3 days)	Twelfth grade students (seniors) may be excused from attendance for up to three additional days. (ORC Section 3317.01)
Minimum Length of School Day Kindergarten Grades 1-6 Grades 7-12	<p>Scheduled classes for kindergarten pupils shall be provided for the equivalent of at least 2.5 hours per day. (Ohio Administrative Code (State Board Rule) 3301-35-06 (C)).</p> <p>Scheduled classes for pupils in grades one through six shall be provided for the equivalent of at least five hours per day, exclusive of the lunch period. (Ohio Administrative Code (State Board Rule) 3301-35-06 (D)).</p> <p>Scheduled cases for pupils in grades seven through twelve shall be provided for the equivalent of at least 5.5 hours per day, exclusive of the lunch period. (Ohio Administrative Code (State Board Rule) 3301-35-06 (E)).</p>