Helpful Information about

Minimum School Year Standards & Waivers

Days

Per Ohio law (ORC 3313.48, OAC 3301-35-06), a school year calendar must consist of at least 182 days. Two of these days may be used for professional development and two may be used for parent/teacher conferences. These four are non-instructional days, which leaves the district with a minimum requirement of 178 **instructional** days per year.

If every student group (grades K-12) is scheduled for at least 178 **instructional** days, there may be no need to apply for a waiver of the minimum school year standards. Twelfth grade students are excused from an additional three days without a waiver (i.e. a minimum of 175 instructional days for seniors) and kindergarten students are granted an additional three days at the start of the school year without waiver **if** a portion of them are in attendance on each of such days (i.e. a minimum of 177 instructional days for kindergarten gradual start). Ohio law allows districts to apply to ODE for a waiver of up to four student instructional days per year.*

Hours

In addition to the number of days per year, Ohio law also requires students to be in class for a minimum number of hours per day. Grades K-6 must receive a minimum of 5 hours of instruction per day. Grades 7-12 must receive a minimum of 5.5 instructional hours per day. In cases of calamity, up to two of these instructional hours may be excused without a makeup requirement or waiver. However, outside of calamity, a district must request a waiver for any student group that falls below the minimum amount of per day instructional hours. The law allows up to 24 such hours to be waived per year.*

Be sure to calculate the number of days/hours the students will be in the building to receive instruction if the waiver is approved as submitted. This is not the same as the number of days in the 'school calendar' as described in ORC 3313.48. Partial days **may not** be summed to constitute a whole day.

The statewide minimums are as follows.
Anything less is outside of state mandates.

Minimum school year – 182 days

Minimum instructional days – 178 days (grades 1-11)
Minimum instructional days – 177 days (grade K)
Minimum instructional days – 175 days (grade 12)

Minimum instructional hours/day (K-6) – 5 hrs
Minimum instructional hours/day (7-12) – 5.5 hrs