

HB

155

<TARGET><BILL>HB 155</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
155</SUBJECT><COMM>HEDC28</COMM></TARGET>

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1/28/14

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 27th, 2014
To: Rep. Gattis, Chairwoman, House Education Committee
From: Rep. Josephson
Re: Hearing Request for House Bill 155

Representative Gattis:

I respectfully request a hearing in the House Education Committee for House Bill 155 relating to the extension of the school year.

House Bill 155 lengthens the minimum school term from 180 to 190 days, while continuing to allow ten of those days to be used for teacher in-service training.

Attached is the requested sponsor statement, copy of the bill, and supporting materials. I would be happy to prepare any other necessary documents or provide additional information. DEED will prepare a fiscal note when the bill is scheduled for a hearing. As this legislation will have statewide impact, I suggest that hearings be teleconferenced to all LIO's. I can provide a witness list prior to a hearing. Feel free to contact me anytime. Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Handwritten signature of Andy Josephson in cursive.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 155: Lengthening the School Year

House Bill 155 extends the minimum school term from 180 days to 190 days, while continuing to allow ten of those days to be used for in-service training of teachers. The bill also makes conforming amendments adjusting the minimum hours of instruction.

Forty states and the District of Columbia currently require more school days than Alaska. Thirty-three states mandate two weeks more instruction than Alaskan children receive. More time in school permits deeper coverage of curriculum and gives students more time to learn.

Other leading nations expect more and provide more schooling for their youth, and if Alaska students are going to compete in tomorrow's job market, we must give them the same opportunities. The average school year in Europe is between 190 to 210 instructional days while the average school year in Japan is 240 instructional days.

House Bill 155 will require a minimum of 180 instructional days plus up to ten in-service days by 2017. This lead time will allow school employee contracts, and state and school district budgets to accommodate the change.



School Calendar

Length of School Year

Education Commission of the States

www.ecs.org

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Number of Instructional Days/Hours in the School Year

Updated by Melodye Bush, Molly Ryan and Stephanie Rose

August 2011

Introduction

While state requirements vary on the number of instructional days and/or hours in the school year, the majority of states require 180 days of student instruction. Most also specify the minimum length of time that constitutes an instructional day. Please note that some states set instructional time in days, others specify hours and some provide specifications for both.

Because staff development and parent conference days are handled differently across the states and often are included in the overall "school calendar" requirements, we have attempted to separate those from the minimum instructional time. However, in some cases, statute is unclear. Please send any corrections (with supporting state policy) to kchristie@ecs.org.

The following table lists the minimum number of instructional days/hours in a school year and the start dates prescribed by law, where specified. Forty states allow local districts or regions to determine when the school year begins.

State Policies Related to the School Year

| State [citation] | Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable) | | Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day | School Start/Finish |
|--|---|---|--|---------------------|
| | In Days | In Hours | | |
| Alabama [ALA. CODE § 16-13-231(b)(1)(c)] Admin. Code 290-3-1-.02 | 180 days | N/A | 6 hours | District option |
| Alaska [ALASKA STAT. § 14.03.030, 14.03.040] | 170 days (plus up to 10 in-service days) | Grades K-3 ~ 740 hours Grades 4-12 ~ 900 hours | Grades 1-3 ~ 4 hours Grades 4-12 ~ 5 hours | District option |

* The minimum number of instructional days refers to the actual number of days that pupils have contact with a teacher. Teacher in-service and professional development days are specified when available.

| State [citation] | Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year (by grade, if applicable) | | Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day | School Start/Finish |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | In Days | In Hours | | |
| Arizona [ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 15-341.01] | 180 days ¹ | Kindergarten ~ 356 hours Grades 1-3 ~ 712 hours Grades 4-6 ~ 890 hours Grades 7-8 ~ 1000 hours 9-12 students must enroll in at least 4 subjects that meet at least 720 hours | 4 hours, excluding lunch and recess | District option |
| Arkansas [ARK. CODE ANN. § 6-10-106; 005 19 CARR § 007(10.01)] | 178 days (plus minimum 10 days [60 hrs] professional development/in-service) | N/A | 6 hours/day or 30 hours/week | <u>Start</u> No earlier than 8/14 and no later than 8/26 ² |
| California [CAL. EDUC. CODE § 46200(c)] 41420(b), 46200, 4 6112, 46113, 4611 7, 46141, 46201(a)] | 180/175 days Through 2014-15 charter schools and districts are allowed to shorten instructional year by 5 days without fiscal penalty. | Kindergarten ~ 600 hours Grades 1-3 ~ 840 hours Grades 4-8 ~ 900 hours Grades 9-12 ~ 1080 hours | Kindergarten ~ 3 hours Grades 1-3 ~ 3.83 hours Grades 4-12 ~ 4 hours | District option |
| Colorado [COLO. REV. STAT. § 22-32-109(1)(n)] | 160 days | Half-day K ~ 435 hours Full-day K ~ 870 hours Grades 1-5 ~ 968 hours Grades 6-12 ~ 1056 hours | N/A | District option |
| Connecticut [CONN. GEN. STAT. § 10-16] | 180 days | Half-day K ~ 450 hours Full-day K ~ 900 hours Grades 1-12 ~ 900 hours | 5 hours Districts may count up to 7 hours per school day towards the total required for the year. | District option |
| Delaware [DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 14, § 1049(a)(1)] | N/A | Kindergarten ~ 440 hours Grades 1-11 ~ 1060 hours Grade 12 ~ 1032 hours | District option, must be at least 31.5 hours/week | District option |
| District of Columbia [D.C. MUN. REGS. tit. 5, § 305] A-2100.4, A-2100.5 | 178 days | N/A | Grades 1-12 ~ 6 hours (including lunch and recess) | District option (single district) |

| State [citation] | Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable) | | Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day | School Start/Finish |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| | In Days | In Hours | | |
| Florida [FLA. STAT. ch. 1003.02(1)(g)] 1001.42,, 1003.02(g) | 180 days | Grades K-3 ~ 720 hours Grades 4-12 ~ 900 hours For schools on double- session or approved experimental calendar: Grades K-3 ~ 630 hours Grades 4-12 ~ 810 hours | 5 hours | District option |
| Georgia [GA. CODE ANN. § 20-2-168(c); GA. COMP. R. & REGS. r. 160-5-1-.01] 160-5-1-.02(2)(d)] | 180 days | Grades K-3 ~ 810 hours Grades 4-5 ~ 900 hours Grades 6-12 ~ 990 hours | Grades K-3 ~ 4.5 hours Grades 4-5 ~ 5 hours Grades 6-12 ~ 5.5 hours | District option |
| Hawaii³ | 180 days beginning w/2011-13 school years (Does not apply to charter and multi-track schools) Prior to the 2015 session, dept. of education must submit plan to increase to 190 days, not including charter schools and multi-track public schools | Grades K-6 ~ 915 hours (beg. In 2012-13) Grades 7-12 ~ 990 hours (for 2014-16 school years). (Does not apply to charter or multi-track schools) | | District option (single district) |
| Idaho [IDAHO CODE § 33- 512(1)] | N/A | Kindergarten ~ 450 hours Grades 1-3 ~ 810 hours Grades 4-8 ~ 900 hours Grades 9-12 ~ 990 hours ⁴ (includes 22 hours for staff development) | N/A | District option |
| Illinois [105 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/10-19] | 176 days | N/A | Grades K-1 ~ 4 hours Grades 2-12 ~ 5 hours | District option |
| Indiana [IND. CODE § 20- 30-2-3] | 180 days | N/A | Grades 1-6 ~ 5 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 6 hours | District option |
| Iowa [IOWA CODE § 279.10] | 180 days | N/A | Grades 1-12 ~ 5.5 hours/day or 27.5 hours/week | Start No earlier than day of the week in which 9/1 falls and no later than first Monday in Dec. |

| State [citation] | Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable) | | Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day | School Start/Finish |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| | In Days | In Hours | | |
| Kansas [KAN. STAT. ANN. § 72-1106(a),(b)] | Grades K-11 ~ 186 days Grade 12 ~ 181 days | Kindergarten ~ 465 hours Grades 1-11 ~ 1116 hours Grade 12 ~ 1086 hours | N/A | District option |
| Kentucky [KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 158.070] | 175 (185-day calendar that includes 175 instructional plus 4 days for professional development & other such as non-pupil contact, holidays, etc.) | 1062 hours | 6 hours | District option |
| Louisiana [LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 17:154.1; LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 28, § CXV:333] | 177 days (plus 2 days for staff development) | 1062 hours | 6 hours (360 minutes) (excluding recess) | District option |
| Maine [ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 20-A, § 4801] | 175 days (plus no more than 5 days for in-service education) | N/A | N/A | District option ⁵ |
| Maryland [MD. CODE ANN., EDUC. § 7-103] | 180 days | 1080 hours | Grades 1-12 ~ 6 hours | District option |
| Massachusetts [MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 69, § 1G; MASS. REGS. CODE tit. 603, § 27.03, 27.04] | 180 days | Kindergarten ~ 425 hours Grades 1-5 ~ 900 hours Grades 6-12 ~ 990 hours | N/A | District option |
| Michigan [MICH. COMP. LAWS §§ 388.1701 (3)(a)] | 165 days (170 days effective 2012- 13) | 1098 hours | N/A | <u>Start</u> No earlier than Labor Day |
| Minnesota [MINN. STAT. §§ 120A.40, 41] | N/A | Kindergarten ~ 425 hours Grades 1-6 ~ 935 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 1,020 hours | N/A | <u>Start</u> No earlier than Labor Day (although there are exceptions to the requirement) |

| State [citation] | Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable) | | Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day | School Start/Finish |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| | In Days | In Hours | | |
| Mississippi [MISS. CODE ANN. §§ 37-13-61, 63] | 180 days | N/A | 5.5 hours (mandatory total of 27.5 hours/week) | District option |
| Missouri [MO. REV. STAT. § 171.031] | 5-day week ~ 174 days 4-day week ~ 142 days | 1044 hours | 5-day week ~ 3 hours 4-day week ~ 4 hours | <u>Start</u> No earlier than 10 days prior to first Monday in September |
| Montana [MONT. CODE ANN. § 20-1-301; MONT. ADMIN. R. 10.65.101] | N/A | Half-day K ~ 360 hours Grades K-3 ~ 720 hours Grades 4-12 ~ 1080 hours ⁶ (plus an additional 3 days for instructional and professional development) | N/A | District option |
| Nebraska [NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 79-211, 212] | N/A | Kindergarten ~ 400 hours Grades 1-8 ~ 1032 hours Grades 9-12 ~ 1080 hours | N/A | District option |
| Nevada [NEV. REV. STAT. 388.090] | 180 days | N/A | Kindergarten ~ 2 hours Grades 1-2 ~ 4 hours Grades 3-6 ~ 5 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 5.5 hours (all, including recess and time between lessons, excluding lunch) | District option |
| New Hampshire [N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 189:1; N.H. CODE ADMIN. R. ANN. EDUC. 306.18(b)(1),(2)] | 180 days | Grades 1-5 ~ 945 hours Grades 6-12 ~ 990 hours | Grades K-5 ~ 5.25 hours Grades 6-8 ~ 5.5 hours | District option |
| New Jersey [N.J. STAT. ANN. § 18A:7F-9] | 180 days | N/A | 4 hours (excluding lunch and recess) | District option |

| State [citation] | Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year (by grade, if applicable) | | Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day | School Start/Finish |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| | In Days | In Hours | | |
| New Mexico [N.M. STAT. ANN. §§ 22-8-9(A)(1), 22-2-8.1] | 180 days | Half-day K ~ 450 hours Full-day K ~ 990 hours Grades 1-6 ~ 990 hours ⁷ Grades 7-12 ~ 1080 hours | Half-day K ~ 2.5 hours Full-day K ~ 5.5 hours Grades 1-6 ~ 5.5 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 6 hours | District option |
| New York [N.Y. EDUC. LAW § 3604(7)] | 180 days | N/A | Half-day K ~ 2.5 hours Full-day K ~ 5 hours Grades 1-6 ~ 5 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 5.5 hours | District option |
| North Carolina [N.C. GEN. STAT. § 115C- 84.2(a)(1),(d)] | 180 days | 1000 hours | 5.5 hours | <i>Start</i> No earlier than 8/25 <i>Finish</i> Not after June 10 |
| North Dakota [N.D. CENT CODE § 15.1-06-04] | 175 (182-day calendar, with 175 days required for instruction; 2 days must be used for professional development and up to 2 days must be used for parent-teacher conferences) | Any reconfigured school year must include at least: Grades K-8 ~ 951.5 hours Grades 9-12 ~ 1038 hours | Grades K-6 ~ 5.5 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 6 hours | District option |
| Ohio [OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3313.48] | 182 days (including up to two days professional development and up to 4 days for parent conferences and reporting) | 910 hours | Grades K-6 ~ 5 hours (including 2 15-minute recesses) Grades 7-12 ~ 5 hours (excluding lunch and recess) | District option |
| Oklahoma [OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 1-109] | 180 days (includes up to 5 days used for professional meetings) | Grades 1-6 ~ 900 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 1080 hours (includes 6 hours/semester for parent-teacher conferences) | 6 hours | District option |

| State [citation] | Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable) | | Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day | School Start/Finish |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| | In Days | In Hours | | |
| Oregon [OR. ADMIN. R. 581-022-1620] | N/A | Kindergarten ~ 405 hours Grades 1-3 ~ 810 hours Grades 4-8 ~ 900 hours Grades 9-12 ~ 990 hours ⁸ | N/A | District option |
| Pennsylvania [22 PA. CODE § 11.1] | 180 days | Kindergarten ~ 450 hours Grades 1-8 ~ 900 hours Grades 9-12 ~ 990 hours | Kindergarten ~ 2.5 hours Grades 1-8 ~ 5 hours Grades 9-12 ~ 5.5 hours | District option |
| Rhode Island [R.I. GEN. LAWS § 16-2-2] | 180 days | N/A | Kindergarten ~ 2.75 hours Grades 1-12 ~ 5.5 hours (excluding recess and lunch) | District option |
| South Carolina [S.C. CODE ANN. § 59-1-425] | 180 days (plus 3 days for mandatory professional development, up to 2 for prof. dev. and up to 5 for planning, parent conf., etc. to total 190 days) | N/A | 6 hours (elementary: including lunch; secondary: excluding lunch) | <u>Start</u> No earlier than third Monday in August |
| South Dakota [S.D. CODIFIED LAWS §§ 13-26-1,9] | N/A | Kindergarten ~ 437.5 hours ⁹ Grades 1-3 ~ 875 hours Grades 4-12 ~ 962.5 hours ¹⁰ | N/A | <u>Start</u> No earlier than the first Tuesday following the first Monday in September ¹¹ |
| Tennessee [TENN. CODE ANN. § 49-6-3004] | 180 days (plus 5 days for in-service and one day for parent- teacher conferences) | N/A | 6.5 hours | <u>Start</u> No earlier than Tuesday after Labor Day unless changed by majority vote of school board |
| Texas [TEX. EDUC. CODE ANN. §§ 25.081, 0811] | 180 days | N/A | 7 hours (including recess and break hours) | <u>Start</u> No earlier than the fourth Monday in August (unless a waiver is granted) |

| State [citation] | Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable) | | Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day | School Start/Finish |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| | In Days | In Hours | | |
| Utah [UTAH ADMIN. CODE R277-419- 3(A),4(C)] | 180 days | Kindergarten ~ 450 hours Grade 1 ~ 810 hours Grades 2-12 ~ 990 hours | N/A | District option |
| Vermont [VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 16, § 1071] | 175 days | N/A | Kindergarten ~ 2 hours/day or 10 hours/week Grades 1-2 ~ 4 hours/day or 20 hours/week Grades 3-12 ~ 5.5 hours/day or 27.5 hours/week | Determined regionally |
| Virgin Islands [17 V.I. CODE § 61] | N/A | 1080 hours | N/A | <i>Start</i> No earlier than first Tuesday after first Monday in August <i>Finish</i> No later than second Friday in June |
| Virginia [VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-79.1, 98] | 180 days | Kindergarten ~ 540 hours Grades 1-12 ~ 990 hours | 5.5 hours | <i>Start</i> After Labor Day (unless a waiver is granted) |
| Washington [WASH. REV. CODE §§ 28A.150.220] | 180 days | Kindergarten ~ 450 hours Grades 1-6 ~ 1000 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 1080 hours | N/A | District option |
| West Virginia [W. VA. CODE § 18- 5-45(c),(e)] | 180 days | N/A | 5.5 hours (including extra-curriculars and co-curriculars) | <i>Start</i> No earlier than 8/26 <i>Finish</i> No later than 6/8 |
| Wisconsin [Wis. STAT. § 121.02(1)(f)] | 180 days | Kindergarten ~ 437 hours Grades 1-6 ~ 1050 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 1137 hours | N/A | District option |
| Wyoming [WYO. STAT. ANN. § 21-4-301] | 180 days | N/A | N/A | District option |

| State [citation] | Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable) | | Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day | School Start/Finish |
|--|---|----------|--|---------------------|
| | In Days | In Hours | | |
| Wyoming [WYO. STAT. ANN. § 21-4-301] | 180 days | N/A | N/A | District option |

Other ECS Resources on Instructional Time

- For information on the minimum number of instructional minutes/hours specified for high schools, please see the ECS StateNote titled *Minimum Number of Minutes/Hours in a High School Day*, or follow this [link](#).
- For information on what cannot count toward official instructional time, please see the ECS StateNote titled *What Cannot Count Toward Official Instructional Time?*, or follow this [link](#).
- For more information on the four-day school week, click [here](#) and [here](#).
- For extending instructional time, see *Learning Time in America: Trends to Reform the American School Calendar*, a report from the National Center on Time and Learning and the Education Commission of the States.
 - Full report: <http://www.timeandlearning.org/images/lta.pdf>
 - Executive summary: <http://www.timeandlearning.org/learningtimeinamerica/ES%20Learning%20Time%20in%20America.pdf>
 - State Policymaker's Guide (4-pager): <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/94/32/9432.pdf>

This ECS StateNote was updated by Melodye Bush (mbush@ecs.org), Molly Ryan (mryan@ecs.org) and Stephanie Rose (srose@ecs.org).

¹ Or equivalent number of minutes of instruction per year

² School year may begin on 8/18 only if it falls on a Monday; otherwise, the school year may begin no earlier than 8/19.

³ According to Hawaii teachers' contracts, the teacher work year is no more than 190 days, 10 of which are non-instructional days - Sandra Goya, Communications Director, Hawaii Department of Education.

⁴ Instructional time for grade 12 may be reduced by up to 11 hours.

⁵ Districts must work within regional units to coordinate with their career and technical center units to ensure that, among other requirements, there are not more than 9 dissimilar instructional days within each regional calendar.

⁶ For graduating seniors, 1050 aggregate hours is sufficient.

⁷ Thirty-three hours of the full-day kindergarten program may be used for home visits by the teacher or for parent-teacher conferences.

Twenty-two hours of grades one through five programs may be used for home visits by the teacher or for parent-teacher conferences.

⁸ If approved by the local school board, instructional time for seniors may be reduced by up to 30 hours.

⁹ Effective July 1, 2010

¹⁰ School boards may release graduating seniors prior to the end of the school year.

¹¹ Schools may start before this date if referred to voters of the district by petition.

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