



New Hampshire

Department of Education

Guidance on School Year/Day, Snow Days, and Remote Instruction

For more information, see RSA 189:24 and ED 306.18 Administrative Rules of the Department of Education

Standard School Year

Per RSA 189:24 and Ed 306.18, under NH state law, a standard school year is one that is maintained for at least 180 days each year, or the equivalent number of hours as required by the rules of the Department of Education. Thus a standard school year, is measured by one of the following methods:

Days:

A standard school year can be measured as a minimum of 180 school days, or;

Hours:

A standard school year can be measured as

- 450 hours of instructional time in Kindergarten
- 945 hours of instructional time in grades 1 – 6
- 990 hours of instructional time in grades 7 - 12

When calculating a school year by hours, it is important to keep the following points in mind:

- 1) Lunchtime, homeroom periods, passing time, and breaks shall not be counted toward the required amount of instructional time.
- 2) Elementary schools may count up to 30 minutes of recess per day as instructional time for pupils in kindergarten through grade 6.
- 3) Advisory periods in middle and high schools shall be counted as instructional time.
- 4) The school year for high school seniors may be reduced by no more than 5 days or 30 hours of instruction, whichever is less, from the number of days or hours of instruction for other high school students.
- 5) The instructional school day of an individual student shall not exceed 5.75 hours of instructional time in elementary schools.
- 6) The instructional school day of an individual student shall not exceed 6 hours of instructional time in middle and high school.



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Snow Days

Each school must include 30 hours at the end of the school calendar to be used for rescheduling hours lost due to inclement weather or other emergencies. Schools must use these hours to reschedule lost instructional time before requesting a waiver of any instructional time lost under RSA 189:2.

Shortened Days/Early Release

A school may have a shortened day when an emergency condition exists which might affect the health and safety of students. The school may count the shortened day as a full day of instruction if it normally would have been at least 5.25 hours and the school remained open for at least 3.5 hours of instructional time.

Remote Instruction

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the NH State Board of Education adopted an emergency rule that expands an LEAs ability to conduct remote instruction. Under the emergency rule, a school district may conduct instruction remotely when the school has been closed due to inclement weather or other emergency. The school shall adopt a plan that shall include procedures for participation by all students. Academic work shall be equivalent in effort and rigor to typical classroom work. There shall be an assessment of all student work for the day.

This rule is effective for 180 days from initial passage and may be revised at the discretion of the State Board.

For more information or for questions, you can reach out directly to the Office of Public School Approval

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