

CSBA Sample Board Policy

Instruction

BP 6112(a)

SCHOOL DAY

Note: The following **optional** policy may be revised to reflect district practice. California law specifies the minimum length of the school day for elementary and secondary schools; see the accompanying administrative regulation. In its Frequently Asked Questions about independent study, the California Department of Education (CDE) has clarified that the same minimum school day requirements apply to traditional independent study as for students attending in-person instruction.

The Governing Board shall fix the length of the school day in accordance with law. (Education Code 46100)

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)

At each school, the length of the school day shall be the same for all students, except as otherwise permitted by law. For any student with a disability, the length of the school day shall be as specified in the student's individualized education program or Section 504 plan.

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

Note: The following **optional** paragraph is for use by districts that maintain elementary schools and may be modified to reflect district practice. Pursuant to Education Code 33350, CDE encourages districts to provide daily recess periods for elementary students, featuring time for unstructured but supervised play. The Superintendent of Public Instruction's Task Force on Obesity, Type 2 Diabetes, and Cardiovascular Disease recommends that students in grades K-6 be provided with recess or other physical activity breaks at least once per 120 minutes of instruction. The National Association for Sport and Physical Education recommends daily recess breaks of at least 20 minutes each day.

The daily schedule for elementary schools shall include at least one period of recess of at least 20 minutes, during which students shall be provided supervised opportunities to engage in unstructured physical activity.

(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

Note: The remainder of this policy applies to districts that maintain secondary schools and may be modified to reflect district practice.

In establishing the daily instructional schedule for each secondary school, the Superintendent or designee shall give consideration to course requirements and curricular demands, availability of school facilities, and applicable legal requirements.

SCHOOL DAY (continued)

The Board encourages flexibility in scheduling so as to provide longer time blocks or class periods when appropriate and desirable to support student learning, provide more intensive study of core academic subjects or extended exploration of complex topics, and reduce transition time between classes.

Prior to implementing a block or alternative schedule that will allow secondary students to attend school for fewer school days than the total number of school days for which the school is in session, the Board shall consult in good faith, in an effort to reach agreement with the certificated and classified employees of the school, parents/guardians of the students who would be affected by the change, and the community at large. Such consultation shall include at least one public hearing for which the Board shall give adequate notice to the employees and to the parents/guardians of affected students. (Education Code 46162)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

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SCHOOL DAY (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8970-8974 Early primary program, including extended-day kindergarten
 37202 Equal time in all schools
 37670 Year-round schools
 46010 Total days of attendance
 46100 Length of school day
 46110-46119 Kindergarten and elementary schools, day of attendance
 46120 Kindergarten and elementary schools, expanded learning opportunity program
 46140-46147 Junior high school and high school, day of attendance
 46148 School day for middle and high school
 46160-46162 Alternative schedule - junior high and high school
 46170 Continuation schools, minimum day
 46180 Opportunity schools, minimum day
 46190-46192 Adult education classes, day of attendance
 46200-46206 Minimum instructional time
 48200 Compulsory attendance for minimum school day
 48663 Community day school, minimum school day
 48800-48802 Concurrent enrollment in community college
 51222 Physical education, instructional minutes
 51760-51769.5 Work experience education
 52325 Regional occupational center, minimum day

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

2021-22 AA & IT Independent Study FAQs, 2021

Clarifications for Student Learning in Quarantine, 2021

Conducting Individualized Determinations of Need, 2021

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION POSITION STATEMENTS

Recess for Elementary School Students, 2006

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENTS

99-03 Physical Education (PE) Requirements for Block Schedules, July 2006

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Extending Learning Time for Disadvantaged Students, August 1995

WEST ED PUBLICATIONS

Full-Day Kindergarten: Expanding Learning Opportunities, Policy Brief, April 2005

WEB SITES

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

National Association for Sport and Physical Education: <http://www.aahperd.org/naspe>

State Board of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/lr/wr/waiverpolicies.asp>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

WestEd: <http://www.wested.org>

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