

SCHOOL DAY**Length of the School Day**

Each school day, including those days shortened for staff in-service activities, parent conferences or other planned activities, must provide at least four (4) hours of actual schoolwork for students in grades one to twelve, inclusive, in order for the day to count as a full day. Any school session of at least two (2) hours, but less than four (4) hours of actual schoolwork, may be counted as a half (0.5) school day.

Unless otherwise specified in a child's Individual Education Program (IEP), the minimum length of the school day and school year for children requiring special education and related services shall be the same as that for children in the regular education program. Additionally, the total travel time each way to and from a special education facility shall not exceed one (1) hour, unless consented to by the student's parent/guardian and approved by the State Department of Education.

Pledge of Allegiance

Time shall be provided daily, preferably during the morning opening exercises, to provide the opportunity for students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Permissive language rather than mandatory language shall be used to introduce the recitation of the Pledge, such as, "You may now stand to recite the Pledge" or "You are invited to participate in the recitation of the Pledge".

If, because of some personal philosophy or belief, a student has made the personal decision not to salute the flag, he/she may choose to remain seated and silent. In any event, all students must be courteous and respectful of the beliefs of others.

Lunch Period

Each District school shall offer all students a daily lunch period of not less than twenty minutes.

Physical Exercise

Elementary schools shall include in the regular school day for each student time devoted to physical exercise of not less than twenty (20) minutes in total, except that a planning and placement team may develop a different schedule for a child requiring special education and related services.

Silent Meditation

Building Principals shall provide, for those students and teachers who wish to do so, the opportunity to observe a brief period of silent meditation at the beginning of each school day.

Observances of Holidays and Other Significant Days of Recognition

In observances of state and national holidays or other such days as proclaimed by the President of the United States and/or the Governor of Connecticut, recognition may be made as to the historical and cultural significance of such days.

Instruction

Policy 6112 (b)

SCHOOL DAY

The Superintendent shall delineate in what manner each school shall observe such days so that students understand the significance of the events and/or contributions of the person(s) being honored. Any such activities shall be conducted with sensitivity and respect toward those individuals whose cultural backgrounds may differ from that of the event being observed.

Students and teachers shall have the right, for reasons of conscience or personal belief, to refuse to participate in or attend any activity or program that includes material which they may deem contrary to their personal beliefs.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes

- 1-4. Days designated as legal holidays.
- 10-16. Length of school year.
- 10-16a. Silent meditation.
- 10-29a. Certain days and weeks to be proclaimed by Governor.
- 10-221o. Lunch periods. Recess. (as amended by PA 13-173)
- 10-230. Flags in schoolrooms and schools. Policy on the reciting of the "Pledge of Allegiance".

Title 5, United States Code, Section 6103 - Federal Holidays

Title 36, United States Code, Section 106 - Patriotic and National Observances

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