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3 **INSTRUCTION**

4
5 School Year Calendar and Day

6
7 School Calendar

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9 Subject to § 20-1-301 and § 20-1-308, MCA, and any applicable collective bargaining agreement
10 covering the employment of affected employees, the trustees of a school district shall set the number of
11 hours in a school term, the length of the school day, and the number of school days in a school week.
12 When proposing to adopt changes to a previously adopted school term, school week, or school day, the
13 trustees shall: (a) negotiate the changes with the recognized collective bargaining unit representing the
14 employees affected by the changes; (b) solicit input from the employees affected by the changes but not
15 represented by a collective bargaining agreement; (c) and from the people who live within the boundaries
16 of the school district.

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18 Commemorative Holidays

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20 Teachers and students will devote a portion of the day on each commemorative holiday designated in
21 § 20-1-306, MCA, to study and honor the commemorated person or occasion. The Board may from time
22 to time designate a regular school day as a commemorative holiday.

23
24 Saturday School

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26 In emergencies, including during reasonable efforts of the trustees to make up aggregate hours of
27 instruction lost during a declaration of emergency by the trustees under § 20-9-806, MCA, pupil
28 instruction may be conducted on a Saturday when it is approved by the trustees.

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30 Pupil instruction may be held on a Saturday at the discretion of a school district for the purpose of
31 providing additional pupil instruction beyond the minimum aggregate hours of instruction required in
32 § 20-1-301, MCA, provided student attendance is voluntary.

33
34 School Fiscal Year

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36 At least the minimum number of aggregate hours must be conducted during each school fiscal year. The
37 minimum aggregate hours required by grade are:

- 38 (a) A minimum of 360 aggregate hours for a kindergarten program;
- 39 (b) 720 hours for grades 1 through 3;
- 40 (c) 1,080 hours for grades 4 through 12; and
- 41 (d) 1,050 hours may be sufficient for graduating seniors.

42
43 The minimum aggregate hours, described above, are not required for any pupil demonstrating proficiency
44 pursuant to § 20-9-311(4)(d), MCA.

In addition, seven (7) pupil instruction-related days may be scheduled for the following purposes:

1. Pre-school staff orientation for the purpose of organization of the school year;
2. Staff professional development programs (minimum of three (3) days);
3. Parent/teacher conferences; and
4. Post-school record and report (not to exceed one (1) day, or one-half (½) day at the end of each semester or quarter).

The Board of Trustees has established a curriculum committee to develop, recommend, and evaluate the school district’s yearly professional development plan. Each year the Board of Trustees shall adopt a professional development plan for the subsequent school year based on the recommendation of the advisory committee.

Extended School Year

In accordance with § 20-1-301, MCA, and any applicable collective bargaining agreement covering the employment of affected employees, the Board of Trustees may establish a school calendar with an earlier start date and a later end date to ensure students receive the minimum number aggregate instructional hours. The purpose of an extended school year will be to maximize flexibility in the delivery of instruction and learning for each student in the School District. When setting an extended school year, the School District will collaborate with students, parents, employees and other community stakeholders. When proposing to adopt changes to a previously adopted school term the Board of Trustees will follow the procedures outlined in this policy.

Legal References:	§ 20-1-301, MCA	School fiscal year
	§ 20-1-302, MCA	School term, day and week
	§ 20-1-303, MCA	Conduct of School on Saturday or Sunday prohibited - exceptions
	§ 20-1-304, MCA	Pupil-instruction-related day
	§ 20-1-306, MCA	Commemorative exercises on certain days
	§ 20-9-311, MCA	Calculation of Annual Number Belonging (ANB)
	ARM 10.55.701	Board of Trustees
	ARM 10.65.101, 103	Pupil-Instruction-Related Days
	ARM 10.55.714	Professional Development
	ARM 10.55.906	High School Credit

Policy History:

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