

Document Status: Draft Update

Section 6 - INSTRUCTION

6:20 School Year Calendar and Day

School Calendar

The Board of Education, upon the Superintendent's recommendation and subject to State regulations, annually establishes the dates for opening and closing classes, teacher institutes and in-services, the length and dates of vacations, and the days designated as legal school holidays. The school calendar shall have a minimum of 185 days to ensure 176 days of actual student attendance.

Commemorative Holidays

The teachers and students ~~shall~~ **may** ^{PRESSPlus1} devote a portion of the school day on each commemorative holiday designated in the School Code to study and honor the commemorated person or occasion. The Board of Education may, from time to time, designate a regular school day as a commemorative holiday.

School Day

The Board of Education establishes the length of the school day with the recommendation of the Superintendent and subject to State law requirements. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure observances required by State law are followed during each day of school attendance.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-19, 5/10-19.05, **5/10-20.46**, 5/10-20.56, ~~5/10-20.46~~, 5/10-30, 5/18-12, 5/18-12.5, 5/24-2, 5/27-**5103**, ~~5/27-18~~, ~~5/27-19~~, ~~5/27-20~~, **and** 5/27-**1025** ~~20.1~~, and 5/27-~~20.2~~.

[10 ILCS 5/11-4.1](#), Election Code.

[5 ILCS 490/](#), State Commemorative Dates Act.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420](#)(f).

Metzl v. Leininger, 850 F.Supp. 740 (N.D. Ill. 1994), *aff'd* by 57 F.3d 618 (7th Cir. 1995).

CROSS REF.: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification), 4:180 (Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:70 (Teaching About Religions), 7:90 (Release During School Hours)

PRESSPlus Comments

[PRESSPlus 1](#). Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/24-2(c), amended by P.A. 104-391, making commemorative holidays optional to observe and moving the last Friday in April (Arbor and Bird Day), October 9 (Leif Erikson Day), and the day immediately after Thanksgiving (Native American Heritage Day) to commemorative holidays. In addition, 105 ILCS 5/27-20 and 105 ILCS 5/27-20.2, both repealed by P.A. 104-391, removed American Indian Day and Just Say No Day, respectively, from the list of commemorative holidays. **Issue 120, October 2025**