



**P.A. 19-195: An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Firm  
Graduation Date and the Date When a School District May  
Commence School Sessions**

Page -1-

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Update Mailing No. 4

July 31, 2019

**P**revious law established that a local or regional board of education must wait until at least April 1<sup>st</sup> to set a firm high school graduation date that provides at least 180 days of school which is the minimum required number of days. Prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>, the board was permitted to set a firm graduation date no earlier than the 185<sup>th</sup> day noted in the school calendar the board adopted for that year.

This Act allows a board to establish, at any time in the school year, a firm graduation date no earlier than the 180<sup>th</sup> day of the board-adopted school calendar for that year.

The legislation also specifies that school boards can set their calendars to begin school on any day before or after Labor Day (the first Monday in September).

The effective date of this legislation is July 1, 2019.

**Policy Implications**

Policy #6111, "School Calendar" has been revised to reflect this new legislation and it follows for your consideration. This is considered a recommended, "good practice" policy for inclusion in a district's policy manual.



July 2019

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*Optional policy to consider.*

## Instruction

### School Calendar

The school calendar shall show the beginning and ending dates of school, legal and local holidays, meeting days, number of teaching days, vacation periods, and other pertinent dates.

The Board of Education may operate schools on state holidays providing a suitable nonsectarian educational program is held to observe the holiday, except for those holidays that occur in December and January.

The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board of Education a school calendar that will meet the requirements of the law as well as the needs of the community, students, and personnel.

The Board of Education may declare a holiday in the schools under its jurisdiction when good reason exists.

**Note:** *A Board of Education for a school that has been designated as a low achieving school pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of C.G.S. 10-223e may increase the number of actual school sessions during each year, and may increase the number of hours of actual school work per session in order to improve student performance and remove the school from the list of schools designated as a low achieving school maintained by the State Board of Education.*

The Board of Education may use the RESC developed and approved uniform regional school calendar, for the school year commencing July 1, 2017 and each school year thereafter.

The Board of Education may establish for any school year a firm high school graduation date which is no earlier than the one hundred eightieth day noted in the school calendar originally adopted by the Board for that school year.

Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Education may develop and adopt its own school calendar to begin school on any day before or after Labor Day.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-4 Days designated as legal holidays.

10-15 Towns to maintain schools, as amended by PA 11-85, An Act Concerning the Achievement Gap.

10-29a Certain days to be proclaimed by governor. Distribution and number of proclamations.

10-261 Definitions.

## Instruction

### School Calendar

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes (continued)

10-16l Establishment of graduation date. (as amended by PA 19-195)

PA 13-247, An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2015 Concerning General Government, Sections 321-324.

PA 14-38, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Uniform Regional School Calendar Task Force.

10-66q Development and adoption of uniform regional school calendar. Report. (as amended by PA 17-220 and PA 19-195)

PA 19-195 An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Firm Graduation Date and the Date When a School District May Commence School Sessions.

Policy adopted:

rev 6/17

rev 6/19

*Sample policy to consider.*

## Instruction

### School Calendar

The Superintendent of Schools shall recommend school calendars meeting all statutory requirements to the Board of Education for its review and modified as it believes appropriate, for its approval.

The calendars recommended to the Board may include the operation of schools on state holidays providing a suitable nonsectarian educational program is held to observe the holiday, except for those holidays that occur in December and January.

The school calendar shall show school days in each school month, the number of school days in each month, legal and local holidays, staff development days, early closing days, vacation periods, and other pertinent dates, including graduation for students in grade twelve.

**Note:** *A Board of Education for a school that has been designated as a low achieving school pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of C.G.S. 10-223e may increase the number of actual school sessions during each year, and may increase the number of hours of actual school work per session in order to improve student performance and remove the school from the list of schools designated as a low achieving school maintained by the State Board of Education.*

The Board, in establishing a graduation date, may establish for any school year a firm graduation date which is no earlier than the one-hundred ~~eighty-fifth~~ **eightieth** day in the adopted school calendar. ~~The graduation date may be modified, if necessary, after April first in any school year by the Board establishing a firm graduation date which, at the time of such establishment, provides for at least 180 days of school.~~

To benefit children, families, and school staff in their planning, multiple year school calendars are preferable to single year school calendars.

**Note:** ~~Section 322 of P.A. 13-247 requires each regional educational service center (RESA) to develop a uniform regional school calendar to be used by each board of education in the area served by such RESA. Such uniform regional school calendars shall be consistent with the guidelines for a uniform regional school calendar established by the Uniform Regional School Calendar Task Force. Such guidelines for a uniform regional school calendar shall include, but not be limited to, (1) at least one hundred eighty days of actual school sessions during each school year, (2) a uniform start date, (3) uniform days for professional development and in-service training for certified employees, pursuant to sections 10-148a and 10-220a of the general statutes, and (4) not more than three uniform school vacation periods during each school year, not more than two of which shall be a one week school vacation period and one of which shall be during the summer.~~

## Instruction

### School Calendar (continued)

The Board of Education may use the RESC developed and approved uniform regional school calendar for the school year commencing July 1, 2017 and each school year thereafter.

**Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Education may develop and adopt its own school calendar to begin school on any day before or after Labor Day.**

(cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
1-4 Days designated as legal holidays.  
10-15 Towns to maintain schools, as amended by PA 11-85, An Act Concerning the Achievement Gap.  
10-29a Certain days to be proclaimed by governor. Distribution and number of proclamations.  
10-261 Definitions.  
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PA 13-247, An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2015 Concerning General Government, Sections 321-324.  
PA 14-38, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Uniform Regional School Calendar Task Force.  
10-66q Development and adoption of uniform regional school calendar. Report. (as amended by PA 17-220)  
**PA 19-195 An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Firm Graduation Date and the Date When a School District May Commence School Sessions.**

### Policy adopted:

rev 7/11  
rev 10/13  
rev 6/14  
rev 5/17  
rev 6/17  
rev 6/19

*An optional sample regulation to consider/modify.*

## **Instruction**

### **School Calendar**

In developing a student calendar for submission to the Board of Education, the Superintendent shall consider the following objectives:

- Begin school during the last week of August;
- Provide for staff and student orientation days before the start of school;
- Review calendars of the regional program providers and coordinate the District calendar to the degree practical to facilitate student participation in regional programs;
- Avoid holding school on the optional State holidays (Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, and Presidents' Day) in addition to Election Day and the first full day of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur;
- On the eve of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur there will be no after school or evening activities;
- Avoid holding school on Christmas Eve and schedule a half day of instruction on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving;
- Reopen schools after the December recess as close to January 1st as legally and practically permitted;
- Provide an academic break in February and April that avoids State test administration periods;
- Provide early release days for parent / teacher conferences in the fall and spring;
- In setting the February and April break maintain comparable periods of instruction between the break periods; and
- Provide make-up dates for a minimum of three (3) school-closing days before make-up days are removed from the April academic break. If a day must be removed from the April academic break to make-up for school closings, the day will be removed from the beginning of the break week.

The Board of Education may use the RESC developed and approved uniform regional school calendar for the school year starting July 1, 2017 and each school year thereafter. (Use of uniform regional school calendar is optional, not required)

The Board of Education may establish for any school year a firm high school graduation date which is no earlier than the one hundred eightieth day noted in the school calendar originally adopted by the Board for that school year.

Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Education may develop and adopt its own school calendar to begin school on any day before or after Labor Day.

Regulation approved:

cps 6/10  
rev 6/17  
rev 6/19