

Policy AE: School Year (Academic Year)

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 05/22/2000 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/13/2023 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/22/2023

School Year (Academic Year)

Except as otherwise provided, all public schools in the state shall be kept in session for at least one hundred eighty (180) days in each scholastic year. ' 37-13-63

DISASTER EMERGENCY

If this school board determines that it is not economically feasible or practicable to operate any school within the district for the full one hundred eighty (180) days required for a scholastic year as contemplated due to an enemy attack, a manmade, technological or natural disaster, or extreme weather emergency in which the Governor has declared a disaster or state of emergency or the U.S. President has declared an emergency or major disaster to exist in this state, the school board may notify the State Department of Education of the disaster or weather emergency and submit a plan for altering the school term.

If the State Board of Education finds the disaster or extreme weather emergency to be the cause of the school not operating for the contemplated school term and that such school was in a school district covered by the Governor's or President's disaster or state of emergency declaration, it may permit that school board to operate the schools in its district for less than one hundred eighty (180) days; however, in no instance of a declared disaster or state of emergency under the provisions of this subsection shall a school board receive payment from the State Department of Education for per pupil expenditure for pupils in average daily attendance in excess of ten (10) days. ' 37-13-63

MINIMUM SCHOOL TERM

"Minimum school term" shall mean a term of at least one hundred eighty (180) days of school in which both teachers and pupils are in regular attendance for scheduled classroom instruction for not less than sixty percent (60%) of the normal school day. It is the intent of the Legislature that any tax levies generated to produce additional local funds required by any school district to operate school terms in excess of one hundred seventy-five (175) days shall not be construed to constitute a new program for the purposes of exemption from the limitation on tax revenues as allowed under Sections 27-39-321 and 37-57-107 for new programs mandated by the Legislature. ' 37-151-5 (j)

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Process Standard for this policy is standard 13.

The academic year provides a minimum of 180 teaching days which meet the following criteria: (MS Code 37-13-63 and State Board Policy)

1. The teaching day must provide at least 330 minutes of instruction per day.
 2. Two of the 180 days may be 60% days provided that there are 198 minutes of actual instruction or testing and the remainder of each day is used for professional development or other activities related to instruction.
 3. The local school board shall have the power and authority to fix the date for the opening and closing of the school term, subject to the minimum number of days which schools must be in session during a scholastic year, as prescribed under Section 37-13-63. However, local school boards are authorized to keep school in session in excess of the minimum number of days prescribed in Section 37-13-63.
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