Instruction
SCHOOL DAY

The County Board and County Superintendent shall fix the length of the school day subject to the provisions of law. (Education Code 46100)

At each school, the length of the school day shall be the same for all students, except as otherwise permitted by law. For any student with a disability, the length of the school day shall be as specified in the student's individualized education program or Section 504 plan.

In establishing the daily instructional schedule for each secondary school, the County Superintendent or designee shall give consideration to course requirements and curricular demands, availability of school facilities, and applicable legal requirements.

The County Superintendent encourages flexibility in scheduling so as to provide longer time blocks or class periods when appropriate and desirable to support student learning, provide more intensive study of core academic subjects or extended exploration of complex topics, and reduce transition time between classes.

Prior to implementing a block or alternative schedule program in which secondary students attend class for fewer school days than the total number of school days for which the school is in session, the County Superintendent shall consult with the certificated and classified employees of the school in a good faith effort to reach agreement and shall also consult with parents/guardians of the students who would be affected by the change and the community at large. Such consultation shall include at least one public hearing for which the County Superintendent has given adequate notice to the employees and to the parents/guardians of affected students. (Education Code 46162)

Adopted: 12/08/2011
Amended: 11/19/2020, 06/15/2023

Legal Reference

Education Code
8970-8974   Early primary program, including extended-day kindergarten
37202   Equal time in all schools
37670   Year-round schools
46010   Total days of attendance
46100   Length of school day
46110-46119   Kindergarten and elementary schools, day of attendance
46140-46147   Junior high school and high school, day of attendance
46160-46162   Alternative schedule - junior high and high school
46170   Continuation schools, minimum day
46180   Opportunity schools, minimum day
46190-46192   Adult education classes, day of attendance
46200-46206 Minimum instructional time
48200 Compulsory attendance for minimum school day
48663 Community day school, minimum school day
48800-48802 Concurrent enrollment in community college
51222 Physical education, instructional minutes
51760-51769.5 Work experience education
52325 Regional occupational center, minimum day

Management Resources

National Association For Sport and Physical Education Position Statements
Recess for Elementary School Students, 2006

State Board of Education Policy Statements
99-03 Physical Education (PE) Requirements for Block Schedules, July 2006

U.S. Department of Education Publications
Extending Learning Time for Disadvantaged Students, August 1995

West Ed Publications
Full-Day Kindergarten: Expanding Learning Opportunities, Policy Brief, April 2005

Websites
California Department of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov
National Association for Sport and Physical Education: http://www.aahperd.org/naspe
State Board of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/ir/wr/waiverpolicies.asp
WestEd: http://www.wested.org

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