

**LAWS GOVERNING**

**LENGTH OF SCHOOL DAY**

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**Note: This contains dated material, subject to change. Revised November, 2009.**

**Louisiana Revised Statute 17:154.1. Length of school day and year; requirements**

A. (1) The minimum school day for grades one through twelve in every public school in the state shall consist of three hundred sixty minutes of instructional time, exclusive of all recesses. The minimum school year shall consist of one hundred seventy-seven days of instruction. However, in order to provide teacher training, provide for the safety and well-being of students, or implement other educational reform efforts, any governing authority of a public elementary or secondary school may authorize some or all of its schools to modify the total number of instructional minutes per day and instructional days per year as long as the total number of instructional minutes per year is no less than the minimum number of instructional minutes per day multiplied by the minimum number of instructional days as required by this Section.

(2) Each governing authority of a public elementary or secondary school shall adopt policies which require its elementary schools to dedicate any instructional time beyond that offered during the 1997-1998 school year to the study of those subjects for which content standards have been adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, with specific emphasis in the lower grades on teaching mathematics and reading or language arts. Each governing authority of a public elementary or secondary school shall encourage, to the extent possible, the secondary schools in its system to utilize such additional instructional time for similar purposes.

(3) Effective for the 2002-2003 school year and thereafter, the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not be applicable to any city, parish, or other local public school or school system which cannot meet the minimum requirements for instructional time as provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection for any given school year due to school closure, when such school closure occurs within the last thirty calendar days of the school year, for reasons of natural catastrophe or disaster as certified by the state superintendent of education and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Education. Such certification and approval shall be in accordance with criteria established pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the board for such purpose. Such rules and regulations shall include but shall not be limited to a requirement that any city, parish, or other local public school or school system not able to meet the requirements of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall submit to the state superintendent of education in accordance with time lines established by the board documented information explaining the reasons why such school or school system cannot meet such requirements and any efforts made by the school or school system toward meeting the requirements. The provisions of this Paragraph shall apply to an entire school system only if every school within the system is forced to close for reasons as provided in this Paragraph.

(4) Effective for the 2002-2003 school year, the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not be applicable to any city, parish, or other local public school system in any parish having a population of at least four hundred seventy-five thousand persons according to the latest federal decennial census and which for the 2002-2003 school year cannot meet the specified minimum requirements for instructional time due to the school system, pursuant to school board action, providing professional development activities during the school day for teachers in every school in the system and the reduced instructional

time does not exceed one hundred eighty minutes.

(5)(a) Effective for the 2005-2006 school year, the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not be applicable to any city, parish, or other local public school or school system which cannot meet the minimum requirements for instructional time as provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection for the 2005-2006 school year due to school closure for reasons of natural catastrophe or disaster as certified by the state superintendent of education and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

(b) Such certification and approval shall be in accordance with criteria established pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the board for such purpose. Such rules and regulations shall include but shall not be limited to requirements that:

(i) Any city, parish, or other local public school or school system not able to meet the requirements of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall submit to the state superintendent of education, in accordance with time lines established by the board, documented information explaining the reasons why such school or school system cannot meet such requirements and any efforts made by the school or school system toward meeting the requirements and a revised school calendar for the 2005-2006 school year.

(ii) Schools and school systems subject to such certification and approval comply with the revised school calendar submitted to the state superintendent and any changes in such calendar that the board may require.

(c) The provisions of this Paragraph shall apply to an entire school system only if every school within the system is forced to close for reasons as provided in this Paragraph.

B. With the authorization of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the local school superintendent shall have the authority to dismiss any or all schools in his system due to emergency situations as defined by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in accordance with rules and regulations of the board which the board shall adopt as provided in the Administrative Procedure Act. Nothing herein shall be construed to allow a school year to be less than one hundred seventy-seven days of instruction, except as provided in Subsection A of this Section. *Added by Acts 1985, No. 92, § 1, eff. June 29, 1985. Amended by Acts 1986, No. 264, § 1, eff. June 30, 1986; Acts 1998, 1st Ex.Sess., No. 160, § 1, eff. July 1, 1998; Acts 2001, No. 815, § 1; Acts 2003, No. 915, § 1, eff. July 1, 2003; Acts 2005, 1st Ex.Sess., No. 25, § 1, eff. Nov. 29, 2005.*

#### **Louisiana Revised Statute 17:154.2. Extended school day; compensation**

A. (1) The city and parish school boards shall provide additional compensation for any elementary or secondary public school teacher required to teach beyond the minimum daily session pursuant to R.S. 17:154 or R.S. 17:154.1 or beyond the average teaching school day observed during the 1985-1986 school session, at the option of the board.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 17:154.2(A)(1), a city or parish school board requiring two hundred seventy-five minutes of daily instructional time in grades nine through twelve for the 1987-1988 or 1988-1989 school year shall be required to provide additional compensation to teachers of such classes in accordance with this Section only upon extending the required teaching time to more than three hundred minutes of daily instruction.

B. Parish and city school boards shall provide such additional compensation to each elementary and secondary school teacher as follows:

(1) The teacher's salary under the state minimum salary schedule for the current year pursuant to R.S. 17:421.3(A) shall be divided by one hundred eighty to determine the daily wage.

(2) The daily wage shall be divided by the average number of hours of instruction time per school day required in the 1985-1986 school year.

(3) The resulting wage per hour shall be multiplied by the average number of additional hours of required instructional time in excess of the teaching time required in the 1985-1986 school session, provided that any portion of an hour in excess of thirty minutes shall be counted as a whole hour.

C. The provisions of this Section shall not preclude any contract between a local school board and an individual teacher or any collective bargaining agreement which provides for additional compensation, other than as provided in this Section, for duties of a school teacher related to extracurricular activities beyond the minimum daily session or beyond the average teaching school day observed during the 1985-1986 school session. *Added by Acts 1986, No. 751, § 1. Amended by Acts 1988, No. 899, § 1, eff. July 21, 1988.*

**Louisiana Revised Statute 17:154.3. School schedules; minimum work days; instructional days**

A. Except as otherwise provided in Subsection B of this Section, all teachers shall work not in R.S. 17:154.1(A), no fewer than one hundred seventy-seven of such days shall be used to provide instruction to students.

B. Effective for the 2005-2006 school year, the provisions of Subsection A of this Section relative to the requirement that teachers work not less than one hundred eighty-two days per school year shall not be applicable. However, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may adopt rules effective for the 2005-2006 school year relative to the minimum number of teacher work days. *Added by Acts 1997, No. 306, § 1, eff. June 17, 1997. Amended by Acts 1998, 1st Ex.Sess., No. 160, § 2, eff. July 1, 1998; Acts 2001, No. 815, § 1; Acts 2005, 1st Ex.Sess., No. 25, § 1, eff. Nov. 29, 2005.*