

School Fiscal Year, Term, Day, Week, Conduct on Weekends, Holidays, Emergency Closure and Pupil-Instruction-Related Days

20-1-301, MCA. School fiscal year.

- (1) The school fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. At least the minimum aggregate hours defined in subsection (2) must be conducted during each school fiscal year, except that 1,050 aggregate hours of pupil instruction for graduating seniors may be sufficient.
- (2) The minimum aggregate hours required by grade are:
 - (a) 360 hours for a half-time kindergarten program or 720 hours for a full-time kindergarten program, as provided in [20-7-117](#);
 - (b) 720 hours for grades 1 through 3; and
 - (c) 1,080 hours for grades 4 through 12.
- (3) For any elementary or high school district that fails to provide for at least the minimum aggregate hours, as listed in subsections (1) and (2), the superintendent of public instruction shall reduce the direct state aid for the district for that school year by two times an hourly rate, as calculated by the office of public instruction, for the aggregate hours missed.

20-1-101(13), MCA

- (13) (a) "*Minimum aggregate hours*" means the minimum hours of pupil instruction that must be conducted during the school fiscal year in accordance with [20-1-301](#) and includes passing time between classes.
- (b) The term does not include lunch time and periods of unstructured recess.

ARM 10.15.101(46)

- (46) "*Pupil instruction time*" includes time spent in organized instruction, structured recess periods for which there has been an identifiable effort to provide guidance and structure and which are directly or indirectly under the supervision of a certified teacher, and passing time between classes.

ARM 10.55.906(1)(b)

- (b) Passage of time between classes may be counted toward the standard school day but shall not be counted toward class time.

20-1-302, MCA. School term, day, and week.

- (1) Subject to [20-1-301](#), [20-1-308](#), and any applicable collective bargaining agreement covering the employment of affected employees, the trustees of a school district shall set the number of days in a school term, the length of the school day, and the number of school days in a school week and report them to the superintendent of public instruction.
- (2) When proposing to adopt changes to a previously adopted school term, school week, or school day, the trustees shall:
 - (a) negotiate the changes with the recognized collective bargaining unit representing the employees affected by the changes;
 - (b) solicit input from the employees affected by the changes but not represented by a collective bargaining agreement; and
 - (c) solicit input from the people who live within the boundaries of the school district.

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20-1-303, MCA. Conduct of school on Saturday or Sunday prohibited -- exceptions.

- (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), pupil instruction may not be conducted on Saturday or Sunday.
- (2) In emergencies, pupil instruction may be conducted on a Saturday when it is approved by the trustees of the school district in accordance with the policies adopted by the board of public education.
- (3) Pupil instruction may be held on a Saturday at the discretion of a school district for the purpose of providing additional pupil instruction, provided that:
 - (a) Saturday school is not a pupil-instruction day and does not count toward minimum aggregate hours of pupil instruction provided for in [20-1-301](#); and
 - (b) student attendance is voluntary.

20-1-304, MCA. Pupil-instruction-related day.

A pupil-instruction-related day is a day of teacher activities devoted to improving the quality of instruction. The activities may include but are not limited to in-service training, attending state meetings of teacher organizations, and conducting parent conferences. A maximum of 7 pupil-instruction-related days may be conducted during a school year, with a minimum of 3 of the days for instructional and professional development meetings or other appropriate in-service training, if the days are planned in accordance with the policy adopted by the board of public education. The days may not be included as a part of the required minimum aggregate hours of pupil instruction.

20-1-305, MCA. School holidays.

- (1) Pupil instruction and pupil-instruction-related days shall not be conducted on the following holidays:
 - (a) New Year's Day (January 1);
 - (b) Memorial Day (last Monday in May);
 - (c) Independence Day (July 4);
 - (d) Labor Day (first Monday in September);
 - (e) Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday in November);
 - (f) Christmas Day (December 25);
 - (g) State and national election days when the school building is used as a polling place and the conduct of school would interfere with the election process at the polling place.
- (2) When these holidays fall on Saturday or Sunday, the preceding Friday or the succeeding Monday shall not be a school holiday

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20-9-806, MCA. School closure by declaration of emergency.

(1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2), if a school is closed by reason of an unforeseen emergency that results in a declaration of emergency by the board of trustees, the trustees may later adopt a resolution that a reasonable effort has been made to reschedule the pupil-instruction time lost because of the unforeseen emergency. If the trustees adopt the resolution, the pupil-instruction time lost during the closure need not be rescheduled to meet the minimum requirement for aggregate hours that a school district must conduct during the school year in order to be entitled to full annual equalization apportionment.

(b) At least 3 school days or the equivalent aggregate hours must have been made up before the trustees can declare that a reasonable effort has been made.

(2) The board of trustees may close school for 1 school day each school year because of an unforeseen emergency and may not be required to reschedule the pupil-instruction time lost because of the unforeseen emergency.

20-9-802(4), MCA

(4) "*Unforeseen emergency*" means a fire, flood, explosion, storm, earthquake, riot, insurrection, community disaster, or act of God or a combination of the foregoing that acts as a principal cause for a school district's inability to conduct 1 or more scheduled school days.