

Program: Cancellation of School

Purpose: When closing school, administrators must consider first and foremost the safety of their students in cases of widespread illness, inclement weather, or other incident.

Responsibility: It is the responsibility of the system president or school principal (in conjunction with local pastors) to cancel school where the health or safety of pupils may be in danger. It is the responsibility of local school boards to determine (with consideration for state law) both the initial school calendar and whether those cancelled days must be made up.

Procedure: Each local governing body shall schedule at least 180 school days annually. A maximum of 5 days may be counted to meet this requirement if they are used for parent conferences or if school is closed by the school administrator because of inclement weather or health/safety reasons. School days are further defined in s.115.01(10).

Each local governing body shall annually ensure that schools hold at least 437 hours of direct pupil instruction in kindergarten, at least 1050 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 1 through 6, and at least 1137 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 7 through 12.

The school hours are computed as the period from the start to the close of each pupil's daily instructional schedule. Scheduled hours under this subdivision include recess and time for pupils to transfer between classes but do not include the lunch period. No more than 30 minutes per day may be counted for recess.

In computing the minimum number of instructional hours under this subdivision, days and parts of days on which parent and teacher conferences are held, staff development or in-service programs are held, schools are closed for inclement weather, or when classes are not held may not be counted.

Days closed for health and safety reasons may be counted in the 180 days of instruction, but schools must still meet the minimum hours of instruction.