

# POLICY GUIDE

OPERATIONS  
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School Year  
Mar 20

[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 168, 175 and 219]

## 8210 SCHOOL YEAR

The Board of Education recognizes that the preparation of a school calendar is essential to orderly educational planning and to the efficient operation of the **school** district.

The Board shall ~~determine~~ annually **approve** the days when the schools will be in session for instructional purposes. The school calendar will provide no fewer than **one hundred eighty** \_\_\_\_\_ ~~(one hundred eighty or more)~~ days of instruction **in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9**. Days on which school is closed for holidays, teachers' institutes, and inclement weather shall not be considered as days in session.

**A half-day class or shortened school day shall be considered the equivalent of a full day only if school is in session for four or more hours, exclusive of recess periods or lunch periods.**

A school day shall consist of not less than four hours, ~~of actual instruction~~, except that ~~in an approved Kindergarten~~, one continuous session of two and one-half hours may be considered a full day **for Kindergarten in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(b)**. ~~A half-day class shall be considered the equivalent of a full day's attendance only if the class is in session for four hours or more, exclusive of recess periods or lunch periods.~~

### **[Optional for Districts Operating a Kindergarten Program**

An approved Kindergarten shall meet the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(c).]

The Commissioner of Education shall annually prescribe a list of religious holidays on which it shall be mandatory to excuse students for religious observance upon the written request signed by the parent or person standing in loco parentis. Staff members shall avoid, whenever possible, scheduling a test on a religious holiday commonly observed by residents of the district.

