



HB 1346

*Transition of School Calendar from Student
Contact DAYS to Student Contact HOURS*

Current Reality in ND



- ▶ NDCC 15.1-06-04 states that students must meet a total of 175 student contact days.
- ▶ NDCC 15.1-06-04 further defines that a day consists of:
 - ▶ 5½ hours for Kindergarten and Elementary students; and
 - ▶ 6 hours for Middle School and High School students
 - ▶ These requirements equate to 962.5 hours for elementary and 1,050 hours for middle school and high school.

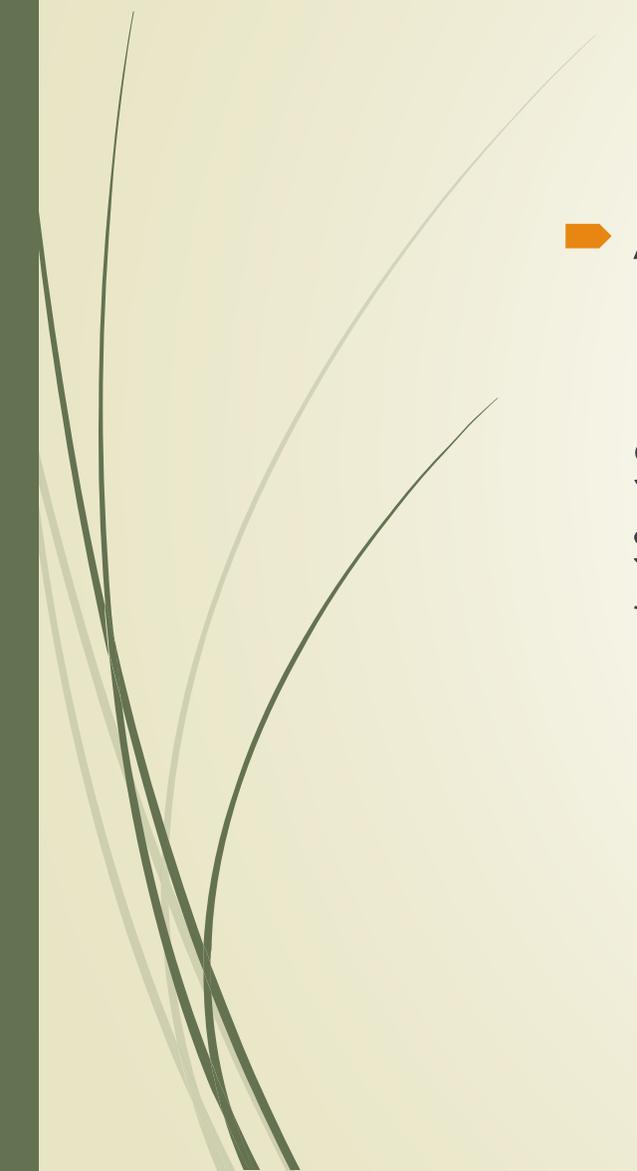


Schools with Extended Schedules

- ▶ There are a number of schools across North Dakota that educate students beyond the 5½ and 6 hour requirements.
 - ▶ School districts already have the authority to determine the length of the schedule as long as it meets, at minimum, the 5½ and 6 hour standard.
- ▶ Schools with an additional 30 minutes per day, educate students 87.5 hours per year more than what is required by NDCC 15.1-06-04.



Current Reality Across the Country

- ▶ According to the Education Commission of the State (ECS), a total of 12 states (Delaware, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin) define school calendar requirements by hours OR allow districts to meet either day or hour requirements.
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HB 1346



- ▶ HB 1346 substitutes days for the same number of instructional hours (175 x 5.5 and 175 x 6).

15.1-06-04. School calendar - Length.

1. A school district shall provide for a school calendar that includes:
 - a. At least one hundred seventy-five days nine hundred sixty-two and one-half hours of instruction for elementary school students and one thousand fifty hours of instruction for middle and high school students;

- ▶ HB 1346 also simplifies language surrounding storm days to state that the board shall establish length of period length and day in accordance with 15.1-06-04 and if a district holds less than a day of instruction it must reschedule to ensure the required time is met.



Benefits to School Districts

- ▶ HB 1346 provides greater flexibility and local control as it relates to school calendar while maintaining the existing instructional time standard.
 - ▶ 2 areas, specifically, are positively influenced by this transition:
 - ▶ School closures related to weather and other emergencies; and
 - ▶ Flexible scheduling for instruction and professional development.
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School Closures

- ▶ While school districts meeting the 5½ and 6 hour requirements for instructional time would not see any change, those extending beyond that standard would gain additional flexibility in school closures.
- ▶ Currently, districts with at least 30 minutes more than the statutory requirements have access to a “grace day” to make up lost instructional time due to weather or emergency. Unfortunately, despite educating students 87.5 hours beyond the required time, the grace day only allows access to 6 of those hours. Otherwise, districts must utilize storm days or extend the school day.
- ▶ HB 1346 would allow districts to utilize any time in the calendar, beyond the statutory requirement, for school closures.



Instructional Time and Prof. Dev.

- ▶ School districts meeting the 5½ and 6 hour minimum requirement would not see any change to instructional time
 - ▶ While school districts meeting the for instructional time would not see any change, those extending beyond that standard would gain additional flexibility related to the structure of instructional time and professional development.
 - ▶ The biggest barrier to change is often time. Schools with extended days would gain a great deal of flexibility to support innovative practices.
 - ▶ The school board, through the calendar approval process, would continue to hold the authority on instructional time.
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Calendar Examples



- ▶ In the attached spreadsheet, a few different calendar examples are provided for the JPS, which has 30 minutes beyond the 5½ and 6 hour requirements. The potential exists to repurpose 87.5 hours.
- ▶ The first tab shows the approved calendar for JPS based on days.
- ▶ The second tab shows the same calendar with a 60 minute weekly late start, which equates to 35 hours. The extended day replaces storm days with the remaining 23 hours beyond required time.
- ▶ The third tab shows a calendar that transitions 5 days to professional development days. The extended day replaces storm days with the remaining 59 hours beyond required time.
- ▶ The fourth tab is representative of a calendar that utilizes all 87.5 hours. This includes 90 minute weekly late starts and 5 PD days and still meets existing statute requirements. In this example, storm days would need to be maintained.



Considerations for Instructional Time

- ▶ Only school districts that extended beyond the 5½ and 6 hour requirement would gain flexibility. Those schools, however, have established local expectations regarding the schedule and instructional time.
 - ▶ Any change in direct instructional time has the potential to be viewed negatively unless the appropriate context is shared. Administrators and school boards must communicate effectively with patrons to reinforce the existing requirement, the purpose for the changes, and the corresponding benefits.
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Things to Consider in Negotiations Related to HB 1346

- ▶ It is important to note that HB 1346 doesn't change that school boards ultimately control the calendar. In fact, it strikes "in consultation with teachers" from calendar approval.
- ▶ With the ability to restructure time, there may be a push by teacher negotiators to decrease the number of work days over time. For example, if 5 Professional Development Days are added to a calendar, eventually an LEA may attempt to negotiate the board decrease that amount to provide an additional day off.