

Instructional Requirements for School Year 2008-09

Minimum Days: Section 101 of the Michigan School Aid Act **no longer requires** that districts provide a minimum number of instructional days. In December 2006, the **Revised School Code** MCL 380.1284(1), was amended to follow Section 101 of the State Aid Act. This eliminates the inconsistency between the Revised School Code and the State Aid Act [note a provision was added that requires the reporting of instructional hours by August 1 of each year]. Section 380.1527 (School Code) requires 5 Professional Development days in 2008-09. Be aware that the 75% rule is still in Section 101 of the State Aid Act – *districts still need to schedule a set number of days* and track daily attendance.

Minimum Hours: According to Section 101 of the Michigan School Aid Act and supported by the Revised School Code MCL 380.1284(1), 1,098 hours are required.

Exceptions to this are:

- for kindergarten pupils, the Michigan School Aid Act, Section 6(4)(r) stipulates that FTE's are determined by "dividing the number of class hours scheduled and provided per year **per pupil** by the number equal to 1/2 the number used for determining FTE's for pupils in grades 1-12" or $1,098/2 = 549$ hours for **each kindergarten pupil** [*Legislative discussion occurring for full-day kindergarten*]
- a student with study halls must either receive the minimum (1,098 hours) excluding study halls, or minimum plus 90 hours (1,188 hours) including study halls
- a pupil in grades 9 - 12 for whom a reduced schedule has been determined to be "in the pupil's best educational interest" must be scheduled for a minimum of 80% of the minimum required hours or 878.4 hours; there a special provision in Sec. 101 to allow a school on a 4-block schedule to meet the minimum at 75% of the minimum required hours or 823.5 hours
- cooperative program pupil or special education pupil who travels outside the district may count up to 3 hours per week travel time as instructional time -- **not to exceed the actual amount**; a district may apply for a hardship waiver from the Department of Education to increase this maximum
- Alternative Education Programs – may seek a waiver for instructional hours at not less than 80%.
- Districts may notify MDE of using an exception of up to 38 hours of "qualifying" professional development time that can be counted towards meeting the instructional hour requirement; these activities must now include: improving AYP, meeting accreditation, or HQ/teacher certification.
- The FTE for ECDD (PPI) will now be based on actual instruction time divided by 450 hours.

In order to count as instructional time, the following conditions must be met:

- direct pupil - teacher contact time;
- program must have specific written goals and objectives;
- credit must be given or, in the case of seminar or tutorial time, a grade is assigned (pass/fail, satisfactory/unsatisfactory, etc.) and is integral to grade progression
- instruction/session must be defined in the Board-adopted course handbook
- for seminar only, the session must not exceed 35:1 student/teacher ratio unless the class sizes in the building are comparable
- ECDD (former PPI) programs – to be approved – must meet at least 144 days and 360 hours or 72 hours w/in 180 days.

Note: Do not confuse state days / hours requirements with current requirements in NCLB re: attendance requirements (currently at 85% to meet AYP).