

DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

Catholic Schools Policies/Regulations

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

School Day

It shall be the policy of the Diocesan Catholic Schools Office, under the aegis of the Bishop, that a day of school is a day during which the school or school district is in session and students are under the guidance and instruction of the instructional professional staff. School shall be considered in session during parent-teacher conferences as well as during activities such as field trips if students are engaged in programs or activities under the guidance and direction of the instructional professional staff. All grade levels of the school must be operated and available for attendance by all students. (281—IAC 12.1(8)(a))

The Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Des Moines may adopt a calendar based on 1,080-hour minimum or 180 days. For those schools adopting a calendar based on a 1,080-hour minimum schedule, an official hour of school is an hour in which the school is in session and students are under the guidance and instruction of the instructional professional staff. For purposes of this rule, an “hour” is defined as 60 minutes. The calculation of minimum hours shall exclude the lunch period. Passing time between classes may be counted as part of the hour requirement. School shall be considered in session during parent-teacher conferences as well as during activities such as field trips if students are engaged in programs or activities under the guidance and direction of the instructional professional staff. All grade levels of the school must be operated and available for attendance by all students. Schools have flexibility on how they can reach the threshold of 1,080 hours of instruction but must keep annual documentation of how they met that standard. The school calendar may include more than or less than or may equal the 180-day schedule. The hours included in an individual day under an hours format may vary. (281—IAC 12.1(8)(b))

A school day, for those utilizing a school calendar based on days, shall consist of a minimum of 6 hours of instructional time for all grades 1 through 12. The minimum hours shall exclude the lunch period. Passing time between classes may be counted as part of the 6-hour requirement. School shall be considered in session during parent-teacher conferences as well as during activities such as field trips if students are engaged in programs or activities under the guidance and direction of the instructional professional staff. (281—IAC 12.1(9))

The length of the school day for Kindergarten students will be determined by the school administrator. (281—IAC 12.1(11))

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