

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES**  
**Catholic Schools Policies/Regulations**

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

**School Day**

It shall be the policy of the Diocesan Catholic Schools Board that the student school day for grades one through twelve will consist of a minimum of six hours, not including the lunch period. The school day consists of the schedule of class instruction and class activities as established and sponsored by the school. Time during which students are released from school for parent/teacher conferences may be counted as part of students' instructional time. The minimum school day will meet the requirements as established for the operation of accredited schools.

The local board may define the number of days kindergarten will be held and the length of each school day for students attending kindergarten.

The school may also record a day of school with less than the minimum instructional hours if the total hours of instructional time for grades one through twelve in any five consecutive school days equals a minimum of thirty hours, even though any one day of school is less than the minimum instructional hours because of a staff development opportunity provided for the instructional staff or parent-teacher conferences have been scheduled beyond the regular school day. If the total hours of instructional time for the first four consecutive days equal at least thirty hours because parent-teacher conferences have been scheduled beyond the regular school day, the school district may record zero hours of instructional time on the fifth consecutive school day as a school day.

When the school is forced to close due to weather or other emergencies, the part of the day during which school was in session will constitute a school day. (IAC:281. 12.1(1), .1(7-10))

Policy Adopted: April 20, 1970

Policy Revised: March 23, 2015

Policy Approved by Bishop Pates: March 28, 2015