

SCHOOL YEAR/SCHOOL CALENDAR

The North Middlesex Regional School District school calendar for the following year will be prepared by the superintendent and submitted to the school committee for approval annually. All schools will operate at a minimum of 180 days. Instructional hours scheduled for the school year will be determined in accordance with the following standards set by the Massachusetts Board of Education:

1. Schools shall ensure that every elementary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 900 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in 603 CMR 27.02. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.
2. Schools shall ensure that every secondary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 990 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in 603 CMR 27.02. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.
3. Schools shall ensure that every kindergarten student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 425 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in 603 CMR 8.00. In those school districts which schedule two sessions of kindergarten daily, the school committee shall adopt a schedule for its kindergarten programs which ensures equal instructional time for all kindergarten students.
4. Schools shall ensure that the special education services are discussed as a whole. The Student Learning Time Regulations are intended to be systemic in nature, while the Chapter 766 – Special Education Regulations provide for the individual rights of students with special needs. Therefore, once a school TEAM has agreed on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and the parent/guardian has accepted the IEP services, that IEP acts as the appropriate program for the student, and all of the elements of the IEP provided by the school will count as structured learning time.

Notwithstanding the minimum school year requirement set forth in 603 CMR 27.03 and 27.04(2), at the discretion of the school committee, the scheduled school year for the graduating senior class may conclude, and the school graduation may be held, up to twelve school days before the regular scheduled closing date of school.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [4:7](#); [69:1G](#); [71:1](#); [71:4](#); [71:4A](#); [71:73](#); [136:12](#)

Board of Education Regulations for School Year and School Day, effective 02/16/12

Board of Education, Student Learning Time Regulations

603 CMR [27.00](#), Adopted 05/11/95