Scheduling for Instruction

School Calendar

By no later than the Atlanta Board of Education meeting in May of each year, the Superintendent shall submit, for approval by the Board, a calendar that specifies the calendar dates of the school year for students. This calendar must be consistent with policies and regulations of the APS, with policies and regulations of the State Board of Education, and with requirements of accrediting agencies.

The Atlanta Board of Education observes the following holidays:

- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving
- Winter Holidays, including New Year's Day
- M.L. King, Jr. Birthday
- Spring Holidays
- Memorial Day

Uninterrupted Instructional Time

The Atlanta Board of Education will provide 180 days of instructional activity per school year for students in grades K-12. For purposes of this policy, instructional activity is defined as instruction provided or coordinated by a certified teacher or substitute teacher that is related directly to course content defined in Atlanta Public Schools curriculum guides. Testing, counseling, and health screenings are deemed to be instructional activities. The duration of the instructional day and required daily instructional time shall be in accordance with applicable state law and state board rule.

Pursuant to state board rule 160-5-1-.02 School Day and School Year for Students and Employees, the superintendent may grant hardship waivers of required daily instructional time for students aged 16 and older.

Of the 180 student attendance days, local school principals may use a maximum of three (3) days for administrative, non-instructional activities. In addition to these three (3) days, students may be permitted to be absent from a semester class no more than five (5) days per semester for school-sponsored, non-instructional activities, resulting in no class period being missed by a student more than seven (7) times during a semester, for an aggregate total of no class period being missed more than thirteen (13) times during the 180-day school year.

Semester Annual School Year Plan

In a continuing effort to provide the best possible teaching, learning, and self-enhancing environment for students and ensure cost effectiveness and increased efficiency of scheduling and programming, the APS will follow a semester annual school year plan.
Unstructured Break Time

The Board allows unstructured break(s) for students in kindergarten and grades 1 through 8.

In line with district goals of maximizing autonomy and flexibility, the school principal shall determine the timing, duration and location of unstructured breaks at each school. The principal shall consult with school-level and system-level instructional staff as appropriate to ensure that each student receives maximum instructional time to promote increased academic achievement and that breaks are scheduled to support the learning process. The principal shall also establish local school practices that ensure break time is appropriately supervised and safe.

Breaks may not be withheld from students for disciplinary or academic reasons. Further, the decisions to withhold break time shall not be inconsistent with any behavioral plan developed by the school for the student, including a Section 504 plan or an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

The Superintendent is authorized to develop regulations to implement this policy.

Last Revised:
Revised: 4/16/1990
First Adopted: 3/13/1989, 8/12/2013

See also:
Board Policy EBB   Safety and Emergency Preparedness
Board Policy GARH   Employee Leaves and Absences
Board Policy IC   Curriculum Development
Board Policy IDB   Health Education
Board Policy IDDF   Special Education Programs
Board Policy IDDG   English Learner (EL) Services
Board Policy GARB   Employee Time Schedules
Board Policy JB   Student Attendance
Board Policy JBCCA   Student Assignment to Schools

Legal citations:
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0147   School Year
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0168   Distribution of federal funds; summer school programs; year-round operation
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0319.1  Georgia Virtual School
O.C.G.A. 19-09-0122   Delegation of authority; hardship
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0159.5  Dual credit courses; requirements
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0319.3  Online Clearinghouse Act
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0140.1  Online learning
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0221   Furlough days
O.C.G.A. 01-04-0001   State legal holidays
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0059   LBOE rule-making authority
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0323   Unstructured Break Time
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0059   LBOE rule-making authority
Final Approval – 11/13/2017

Rule 160-4-2-.12 Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Program Plan
Rule 160-4-2-.31 Hospital/Homebound Instruction
Rule 160-4-2-.34 Dual Enrollment
Rule 160-4-2-.48 High School Graduation Requirements for Students Enrolling in the Ninth Grade for the First Time in the 2008-09 School Year and Subsequent Years
Rule 160-4-3-.14 Work-Based Learning Programs
Rule 160-4-8-.09 Student Advisement
Rule 160-5-1-.02 School Day and School Year for Students and Employees
Rule 160-5-1-.18 Competitive Interscholastic Activities in Grades 6-12
Rule 160-8-1-.01 Georgia Virtual School Program
Rule 160-5-1-.10 Student Attendance

Keywords:
school schedule, student days, attendance, school calendar, staff calendar, instructional time, instructional days, instructional minutes, recess