

SCHOOL YEAR/SCHOOL DAY

School Year

In accordance with the Code of Virginia, ACPS shall operate its schools with students in attendance a minimum 180 teaching days or 990 teaching hours (540 hours for kindergarten) per school year. The number of teaching days within the ACPS school year may include more than the 180 days required by the State of Virginia.

When schools are closed due to inclement weather or emergencies, ACPS shall hold make-up days if necessary to meet these requirements.

School Calendar

The first day of school shall be after Labor Day pursuant to the Code of Virginia, [§ 22.1-79.1](#) (unless the Virginia Board of Education waives this requirement). The Superintendent will seek an exemption for those schools operating on a modified calendar.

The School Board shall adopt the official school calendar for the following year no later than June 1 upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. The School Board must approve any exceptions or revisions to the calendar in advance.

The Superintendent shall ensure that the calendar conforms to the number of actual days of employment as required by law and Board policy.

The Superintendent may convene an advisory committee composed of teachers, parents, and administrators to recommend a proposed calendar to the Superintendent. The recommendation of this committee shall be advisory.

School Day

The length of the regular school day will be 6 hours 35 minutes for elementary schools and K-8 schools, 6 hours 45 minutes for grades 6-8, and 6 hours 40 minutes for high school. Each elementary school shall provide students in grades K-5 with twenty minutes of daily recess.

The secondary school class schedule shall contain a minimum of 140 clock hours for each unit of credit. When credit is awarded in less than whole units, the increment awarded must be no greater than the fractional part of the 140 hours of instruction provided.

The Superintendent with School Board approval shall determine the time for dismissal of each grade in the various schools.

No school official may dismiss classes before the scheduled dismissal hour except with the approval of the Superintendent.

The Individual Education Plan (IEP) for a special education student may provide for a shortened school day if appropriate to meet the needs of the student.

The length of the work day for employees will be determined by the School Board. It will be of sufficient length to allow for the daily program for students and additional time as may be necessary for such activities as planning, preparation, meetings, workshops, conferences, meal intermissions, or other contractual obligations.

Adopted: January 9, 1997

Amended: July 1, 2005

Amended: June 15, 2006

Amended: June 11, 2015

Legal Refs: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended §§ [22.1-26](#), [22.1-79.1](#), [22.1-98](#).

[8 VAC 20-131-150](#)

[8 VAC 20-131-200](#)

Cross Ref.: GAA Staff Time Schedules