

SCHOOL YEAR/SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar for the ensuing year will be prepared by the Superintendent and submitted to the School Committee for approval by April 1st of each year. The number of days or instructional hours scheduled for the school year will be determined in accordance with the following standards set by the Massachusetts Board of Education:

1. Elementary school will operate for a minimum of 180 days. 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. Secondary schools will operate for a minimum of 180 days. 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. The Superintendent will solicit input from the Harvard Teachers Association and the School Committee in developing a proposed calendar.

For the information of staff, students, and parents, the calendar will set forth the days schools will be in session; holidays and vacation periods; in service days; and parent conferences.

SCHOOL YEAR/SCHOOL DAY

The Harvard Public Schools conform with the Student Learning Time Regulations adopted by the Board of Education on December 20, 1994. Prior to the beginning of each school year, the School Committees shall schedule a school year which includes at least 185 school days; 180 regular days with 5 inclement weather days. The School Committees shall operate the schools at least 180 school days in a school year comprised of a minimum of 990 hours for grades 9-12; 900 hours for grades 1-8, and 425 hours for kindergarten.

EARLY RELEASE OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

As a matter of policy the Board of Education encourages school districts to schedule high school graduation as close as possible to the scheduled closing date of the high school to maximize the learning time offered to graduating senior and minimize the disruption of instruction provided to other students.

Notwithstanding the minimum school year requirements 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 of a high school or vocational/technical school may conclude, and the school

graduation may be held, up to twelve school days before the regular scheduled closing date of that school.

LEGAL REFS.:

M.G.L. [4:7](#); [15:1G](#); [71:1](#); [71:4](#); [71:4A](#); [71:73](#); [136:12](#), [603 CMR 27.00](#)

Board of Education Regulations for School Year and School Day, Board of Education, Student Learning Time Regulations

Approved: February 22, 2010

Amended: March 23, 2015