

SCHOOL DAY

The Board shall require every school under its jurisdiction to conduct a minimum daily session of not less than 360 minutes of instructional time, exclusive of all recess; provided that this shall not be construed as to prevent half-day sessions where the school accommodations are insufficient for all pupils of the system in a whole day session. Two (2) or more partial days may be combined to meet the minimal school year requirement of 175 days of 360 minutes of instructional time. The class schedule shall be altered to assure all classes are conducted during partial days.

The School Board shall require each elementary school to dedicate any instructional time beyond that offered during the 1997-98 school year to the study of those subjects for which content standards have been adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Specific emphasis shall be placed in the lower grades on teaching mathematics and reading or language arts.

The school day shall include, by definition, the daily period of time established by the Board as the official operating hours of the school for administrative and instructional purposes, as well as cocurricular activities.

The opening and closing time for each school shall be fixed by the Superintendent and approved by the Board. No school or grade may be dismissed before the regular hour except with the approval of the Superintendent.

OPENING EXERCISES - DAILY

- a. Each school shall allow an opportunity, at the start of each school day, for those students and teachers desiring to do so, to observe a brief time in silent meditation. The brief time of silent meditation shall not be intended or identified as a religious exercise.
- b. Each school day, time shall be permitted in the opening exercises for flag raising and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

- c. The maximum length for silent meditation, flag raising, and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance should be no longer than five (5) minutes duration.

Revised: November 1998

Revised: September 2001

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:154, 17:154.1, 17:154.3; *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, Bulletin 741, State Department of Education; Board minutes, 10-12-76, 11-17-98, 9-18-01.