



**EDUCATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATES**  
Your education policy team.

# 50-State Comparison

## Instructional Time

### All Data Points for All States

January 2020

There are many exceptions to instructional time requirements across states, and not all of them are indicated in this 50-State Comparison. Unless otherwise indicated, states that have hours/minutes per year and days per year require both. View the full instructional time 50-State Comparison [here](#).

STATE ▲	WHAT IS THE STATE'S REQUIREMENT FOR MINIMUM NUMBER OF DAYS IN A SCHOOL YEAR?	WHAT IS THE STATE'S REQUIREMENT FOR MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS OR MINUTES IN A SCHOOL YEAR?	NOTES	CITATION	WHAT IS THE STATE'S REQUIREMENT FOR MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS OR MINUTES PER SCHOOL DAY?	NOTES	CITATION	WHAT ARE THE STATE'S REQUIREMENTS FOR START AND/OR FINISH DATES FOR SCHOOLS?	NOTES	CITATION
Alabama	180 days	1,080 hours	Days or hours.	Ala. Code § 16-13-231	6 hours	Excludes recess and lunch.	Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-1-02	District option.		Ala. Code § 16-13-231
Alaska	180 days	Grades K-3: 740 hours Grades 4-12: 900 hours	Days or hours.  A day of in-service training of teachers can substitute for a day in session, up to a maximum of 10 days.	Alaska Stat. Ann. § 14.03.030	Grades 1-3: 4 hours All Other Grades: 5 hours	Excludes intermissions.	Alaska Stat. Ann. § 14.03.040	District option.		Alaska Stat. Ann. § 14.03.030
Arizona	180 days	Grades 1-3: 712 hours Grades 4-8: 890 hours Grades 9-12: 720 hours	Days or hours.  Instructional hour requirement includes lunch.	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-901 Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-341.01	N/A			Not specified in statute or regulation.		
Arkansas	Set by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas.	N/A	ADE Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts can be found <a href="#">here</a> .	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-108	6 hours	Or 30 hours per week.  At least 40 minutes of recess must be included in instructional time for elementary schools.	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-102	Start: on or after the Monday of the week in which August 19 falls; No earlier than August 14th No Later than August 26th.		Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106

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California	180 days	Kindergarten: 36,000 minutes Grades 1-3: 50,400 minutes Grades 4-8: 54,000 minutes Grades 9-12: 64,800 minutes	For comparison, the instructional minutes are equivalent to: Kindergarten: 600 hours Grades 1-3: 840 hours Grades 4-8: 900 hours Grades 9-12: 1,080 hours.  Select districts are required 175 days.	Cal. Educ. Code § 46200 Cal. Educ. Code § 46201	Kindergarten: 180 minutes Grades 1-3: 230 minutes Grades 4-12: 240 minutes	No kindergarten student shall be in school for more than 4 hours.  The school day in grades K-8 excludes noon intermissions. Recess is excluded, except for in kindergarten.  For comparison, the instructional minutes are equivalent to: Kindergarten: 3 hours Grades 1-3: 3.83 hours Grades 4-12: 4 hours	Cal. Educ. Code § 46117 Cal. Educ. Code § 46112 Cal. Educ. Code § 46113 Cal. Educ. Code § 46141 Cal. Educ. Code § 46111 Cal. Educ. Code § 46115	District option.		Cal. Educ. Code § 37618
Colorado	160 days	Half-day Kindergarten: 450 hours Full-day Kindergarten: 900 hours Grades 1-5: 990 hours Grades 6-12: 1,080 hours	Required hours may include time for parent-teacher conferences, staff in-service programs, and closing due to health, safety, or welfare concerns.	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-109	N/A			District option.		Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-109
Connecticut	180 days	Half-day Kindergarten: 450 hours Full-day K-12: 900 hours		Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-16	N/A	A district shall not count more than 7 hours of actual school work in any school day towards the total required for the year.	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-16	District option.		Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-66q
Delaware	N/A	Grades K-11: 1,060 hours Grade 12: 1,032 hours		Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 1049	3.5 hours	Excludes lunch.	Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 1049	District option.		Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 1049
District of Columbia	180 days	N/A		D.C. Code Ann. § 38-2901	5 hours		D.C. Code Ann. § 38-2901	Set by the Board of Education.		D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 5-E, § 305
Florida	180 days	Grades K-3: 720 hours Grades 4-12: 900 hours	Days or hours.	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1011.61 Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1001.42	N/A			District option.		Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1008.22

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Georgia	180 days	N/A	Or equivalent.  Up to 10 hours of parent-teacher conferences can count towards instructional time.  Recess and lunch are not considered instructional time.  Testing, counseling, and health screenings are considered instructional time.	Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-168	Grades K-3: 4.5 hours Grades 4-5: 5 hours Grades 6-12: 5.5 hours	Daily average based on 180 day school year.	Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 160-5-1-02	Not specified in statute or regulation.		
Hawaii	180 days	1,080 hours	Excludes professional development and other non-instructional days. Does not apply to charter and multi-track schools.	Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 302A-251	N/A			Not specified in statute or regulation.		
Idaho	Set by the board of trustees of each school district.	Kindergarten: 450 hours Grades 1-3: 810 hours Grades 4-8: 900 hours Grades 9-12: 990 hours	Up to 22 hours for staff development activities.  Transportation to and from school, passing time between classes, recess and lunch periods are not included.	Idaho Code Ann. § 33-512	Set by the board of trustees of each school district.		Idaho Code Ann. § 33-512	District option.		Idaho Code Ann. § 33-512
Illinois	185 days	N/A	Designed to insure 176 days of student attendance.	105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/10-19	Half-day Kindergarten: 2 hours Full-day K-1: 4 hours Grades 2-12: 5 hours		105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/10-19.05	District option.		105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/10-19

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Indiana	180 days	N/A		Ind. Code Ann. § 20-30-2-3	Grades 1-6: 5 hours Grades 7-12: 6 hours	Includes participation in an approved course, a curriculum, or an educationally related activity including a reasonable amount of passing time between classes; it does not include lunch or recess.	Ind. Code Ann. § 20-30-2-2 Ind. Code Ann. § 20-30-2-1	Not specified in statute or regulation.		
Iowa	180 days	1,080 hours		Iowa Code Ann. § 279.10	Grades 1-12: 6 hours	Or 30 hours per week.  Excludes lunch. Includes parent-teacher conferences and passing periods.	Iowa Code Ann. § 256.7	Start: no sooner than August 23 and no later than the first Monday in December.		Iowa Code Ann. § 279.10
Kansas	Grades 1-11: 186 days Grade 12: 181 days	Kindergarten: 465 hours Grades 1-11: 1,116 hours Grade 12: 1,086 hours		Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-3115	5 hours		K.S.A. 72-3120	District option.		Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-3115
Kentucky	170 days	1,062 hours	Must also include 4 professional development days.	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.070	6 hours	Kindergarten programs may operate for less than 6 hours with state board approval.	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.060	District option.		Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.070
Louisiana	177 days	63,720 minutes	Days or minutes.  For comparison, the instructional minutes are equivalent to: 1,062 hours.	La. Stat. Ann. § 17:154.1 28 La. Admin. Code Pt CXV, 333	360 minutes	Excludes recess.  For comparison, the instructional minutes are equivalent to: 6 hours	La. Stat. Ann. § 17:154	District option.		28 La. Admin. Code Pt CXV, 333

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Maine	180 days	N/A	May include 5 days for in service education of teachers, administrative meetings, parent-teacher conferences, records' days and similar activities.  Seniors may be allowed up to graduate five days prior to the end of the regular school year.	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A, § 4801	Kindergarten: 2.5 hours Grades 1-12: 5 hours	Minimum length of a day is 3 hours, but the average over a 2-week period must be at least 5 hours.	Code Me. R. tit. 05-071 Ch. 125., § 6	District option.		Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A, § 4801
Maryland	180 days	1,080 hours 1,170 hours for public high schools		Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-103 Md. Code Regs. 13A.03.02.12	3 hours		Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-103	Start: no earlier than the Tuesday immediately following Labor Day. Finish: no later than June 15.	A county board may extend the length of the school year for up to 5 days beyond June 15 without approval from the State Board.	Md. Code Regs. 01.01.2016.13 Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-103

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Massachusetts	180 days	Kindergarten: 425 hours Grades 1-5: 900 hours Grades 6-12: 990 hours	Schools must schedule at least 185 days.  Seniors may graduate up to 12 days early.  Breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, homeroom, recess, non-directed study periods, school services, and optional school programs do not count towards instructional time.	603 Mass. Code Regs. 27.03 603 Mass. Code Regs. 27.04 603 Mass. Code Regs. 27.05	N/A			District option.		603 Mass. Code Regs. 27.03
Michigan	180 days	1,098 hours		Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 388.1701	N/A			Start: after Labor Day.		Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 380.1284b
Minnesota	Grades 1-11: 165 days	Kindergarten: 425 hours All-day Kindergarten: 850 hours Grades 1-6: 935 hours Grades 7-12: 1,020 hours		Minn. Stat. Ann. § 120A.41	N/A			Start: after Labor Day.		Minn. Stat. Ann. § 120A.40
Mississippi	180 days	N/A		Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-13-63	5.5 hours		Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-13-67	District option.		Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-13-61
Missouri	No minimum school days are required.	Kindergarten: 522 hours Other Grades: 1,044 hours		Mo. Ann. Stat. § 171.031 Mo. Ann. Stat. § 163.021	3 hours		Mo. Ann. Stat. § 160.041	Start: no earlier than 14 days prior to the first Monday in September.	Starting in the 2020-21 school year, schools may start earlier if they give appropriate public notice.	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 171.031

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Montana	Set by the trustees of a school district.	Half-day Kindergarten: 360 hours Full-day K-3: 720 hours Grades 4-12: 1,080 hours	Pupil-instruction-related days and inservice training may not be included as part of the required minimum aggregate hours.  Graduating seniors are only required to attend 1,050 hours.	Mont. Code Ann. § 20-1-301 Mont. Code Ann. § 20-1-302 Mont. Code Ann. § 20-1-304	Set by the trustees of a school district.		Mont. Code Ann. § 20-1-302	Not specified in statute or regulation.		
Nebraska	N/A	Kindergarten: 400 hours Grades 1-8: 1,032 hours Grades 9-12: 1,080		Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 79-211 Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 79-212	Set by the State Board of Education.	Nebraska Department of Education's Days in Session/Instructional Program Hours Public and Special Purpose can be found <a href="#">here</a> .	Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 79-101	Set by the State Board of Education.		Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 79-101
Nevada	180 days	N/A	May include up to 5 days for teachers' conferences.  Alternative schedules can be approved in certain circumstances so long as they provide equal to or greater than the number of minutes of instruction that would be provided on a 180 day schedule.	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 388.090 Nev. Admin. Code 387.120 Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 388.090	Kindergarten: 120 minutes Grades 1-2: 240 minutes Grades 3-6: 300 minutes Grades 7-12: 330 minutes	Includes recess and time between activities but does not include lunch.  For comparison, the instructional time in minutes are equivalent to: Kindergarten: 2 hours Grades 1-2: 4 hours Grades 3-6: 5 hours Grades 7-12: 5.5 hours	Nev. Admin. Code 387.131	District option.	Nev. Admin. Code 387.120	

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New Hampshire	180 days	Kindergarten: 450 hours Elementary schools: 945 hours Middle and High schools: 990 hours	Days or hours.  High school seniors may graduate up to 5 days early.	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 189:1 N.H. Code Admin. R. § 18	N/A	New Hampshire sets maximums rather than minimums of instructional time per day.  Elementary Schools: 5.75 hours Middle and High Schools: 6 hours  Lunch, home room periods, passing time, and breaks do not count towards instructional time. Recess may count up to 30 minutes per day for elementary students.	N.H. Code Admin. R. § 18	District option.		N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 194-C:4
New Jersey	180 days	N/A		N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:7F-9	Full-day Kindergarten: 2.5 hours Grades 1-12: 4 hours		N.J. Admin. Code § 6A:32-8.3	District option.		N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:36-2
New Mexico	N/A	Half-day Kindergarten: 450 hours Full-day K-6: 990 hours Grades 7-12: 1,080 hours	Excludes lunch.  Some hours may be used for home visits or for parent-teacher conferences, depending on grade level.	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-8.1	Half-day Kindergarten: 2.5 hours Full-day K-6: 5.5 hours Grades 7-12: 6 hours	Excludes lunch.	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-8.1	District option.		N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-8.1
New York	180 days	Half-day Kindergarten: 450 hours Full-day K-6: 900 hours Grades 7-12: 990 hours		N.Y. Educ. Law § 3604 N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 8, § 175.5	Half-day Kindergarten: 2.5 hours Full-day K-6: 5 hours Grades 7-12: 5.5 hours	Excludes lunch for grades 7-12.	N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 8, § 175.5	District option.		N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 8, § 175.5
North Carolina	185 days	1,025 hours	Days or hours.	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-84.2	Set by the local school board.		N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-84.2	Start: Monday closest to August 26 Finish: No later than the Friday closest to June 11.		N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-84.2



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North Dakota	N/A	Half-day Kindergarten: 481.25 hours Grades K-5: 962.5 hours Grades 6-12: 1,050 hours	No more than 2 days may be scheduled for parent-teacher conferences.  At least 3 days of professional development must be scheduled, not including meals or breaks.	N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-22-02 N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-06-04	Half-day Kindergarten: 2.75 hours Full-day Kindergarten and Elementary: 5.5 hours High school: 6 hours		N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-06-04 N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-22-02	District option.		N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-06-04
Ohio	Set by the board of education of each city.	Kindergarten: 450 hours Full-day K-6: 910 hours Grades 7-12: 1,001 hours	Up to 2 days equivalent may be used for parent-teacher conferences and reporting, and up to 2 days equivalent may be used for professional development.  Excludes lunch and breakfast periods and extracurricular activities.  Includes morning and afternoon recess periods of not more than 15 minutes for pupils in kindergarten through 6th grade.	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.48	N/A			District option.		Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3311.85

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Oklahoma	180 days	1,080 hours	Days or hours.  Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, the minimum hours must be met within 165 days of instruction.  A school district must not count more than 30 hours of professional development towards the hourly requirement.	Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 1-109	6 hours		Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 1-111	District option.		Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 4516
Oregon	N/A	Half-day Kindergarten: 450 hours Grades K-8: 900 hours Grades 9-11: 990 hours Grade 12: 966 hours	Recess may count towards instructional time for a certain number of hours through grade 3.  30 hours may be used for parent teacher conferences.	Or. Admin. R. 581-022-2320		Oregon sets maximum hours per day: Grades K-8: 8 hours Grades 9-12: 8.5 hours	Or. Admin. R. 581-022-2320	District option.		Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 332.075
Pennsylvania	180 days	Kindergarten: 450 hours Grades 1-6: 900 hours Grades 7-12: 990 hours	Can meet days or hours with approval from the Secretary of Education.	22 Pa. Code § 11.1 22 Pa. Code § 11.3	Kindergarten: 2.5 hours Grades 1-8: 5 hours Grades 9-12: 5.5 hours		22 Pa. Code § 51.6	District option.		24 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 15-1504
Puerto Rico	Set by the Secretary of Education.	Set by the Secretary of Education.	Must include 2 successive days per semester for holding meetings with parents of students and for professional development.	§ 145t Academic duties and obligations of the Secretary, 3 L.P.R.A. § 145t § 145n The academic year, 3 L.P.R.A. § 145n	Set by the Secretary of Education.		§ 145t Academic duties and obligations of the Secretary, 3 L.P.R.A. § 145t	Set by the Secretary of Education.		§ 145t Academic duties and obligations of the Secretary, 3 L.P.R.A. § 145t

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Rhode Island	180 days	1,080 hours	Days or hours.	16 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 16-2-2	Full-day Kindergarten: 5.5 hours Grades 1-12: 6 hours		16 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 16-99-3 16 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 16-2-2	Start: no later than the first Thursday following the first Monday in September.		200 R.I. Code R. 20-05-1.5
South Carolina	180 days	N/A	School districts must designate 3 days for make-up days, 3 days for professional development, no more than 2 days for preparation of opening of schools, and up to 5 days for teacher planning and parent conferences.	S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-425	6 hours	Includes lunch for elementary students. Excludes lunch for secondary students.	S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-425	Start: no earlier than the third Monday in August.		S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-42
South Dakota	Set by the local school board.	Kindergarten: 437.5 hours Grades 1-5: 875 hours Grades 6-12: 962.5 hours	Excludes intermissions for grades 1-12.  School boards may release seniors prior to the end of the school year.  May include 16.5 hours for teacher-parent conference, and 5.5 of those hours may be used for teacher training.	S.D. Codified Laws § 13-26-1 S.D. Codified Laws § 13-26-2 S.D. Codified Laws § 13-26-4 S.D. Codified Laws § 13-26-4.1	Set by each local school board.		S.D. Codified Laws § 13-26-1	Start: on or after the first Tuesday following the first Monday in September.		S.D. Codified Laws § 13-26-9
Tennessee	180 days	N/A	Must also schedule 5 days for in-service and 1 day for teacher-parent conferences.	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004	Kindergarten: 4 hours Grades 1-12: 6.5 hours		Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-201 Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004	Start date: no earlier than August 1st.		Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004

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Texas	N/A	75,600 minutes	Includes time for instruction, intermission and recess.  For comparison, the instructional minutes are equivalent to: 1,260 hours	Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 25.081	7 hours		Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 29.0822	Start: after the fourth Monday in August. Finish: after May 15th.		Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 25.0811 Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 25.0812
Utah	180 days	990 hours	Up to 3 days may be used for parent-teacher and college/career readiness conferences.  Up to 4 days may be used for professional development.  Up to 16.5 hours may be used for parent-teacher and college/career readiness conferences.  Excludes lunch periods and passing time.  Up to 32 hours may be used for professional development.	Utah Admin. Code r. R277-419-4	Kindergarten: 2 hours Grades 1-12: 4 hours		Utah Admin. Code r. R277-419-2	District option.		Utah Admin. Code r. R277-419-4
Vermont	175 days	N/A	Must also include at least 5 teacher in-service days.	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 1071	Set by the State Board of Education.	State Board of Education rules can be found <a href="#">here</a> .	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 1071	District option.		Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 1071

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Virginia	180 days	Kindergarten: 540 hours Grades 1-12: 990 hours	Days or hours.	Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-79.1 Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-98	Kindergarten: 3 hours Grades 1-12: 5.5 hours	Includes passing time for class changes and excludes breaks for meals and recess. Recess may count as instructional time for elementary students so long as it does not exceed 15% of required instructional hours.	8 Va. Admin. Code 20-131-150	Start: no earlier than 14 days before Labor Day.		Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-79.1
Washington	Kindergarten: 180 half-days Grades 1-12: 180 days	Kindergarten: 450 hours Grades 1-8: 1,000 hours Grades 9-12: 1,080 hours		Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.150.220	N/A			Not specified in statute or regulation.		
West Virginia	180 days	N/A		W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-45	K-5: 315 minutes Grades 6-8: 330 minutes Grades 9-12: 345 minutes	For comparison, the instructional minutes are equivalent to: K-5: 5.25 hours Grades 6-8: 5.5 hours Grades 9-12: 5.75 hours	W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-45	Not specified in statute or regulation.		
Wisconsin	N/A	Kindergarten: 437 hours Grades 1-6: 1,050 hours Grades 7-12: 1,137 hours	Includes recess and passage time between classes but does not include the lunch period.	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 121.02	N/A			Start date: no earlier than September 1.		Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.045
Wyoming	175 days	Kindergarten: 450 hours Grades 1-5: 900 hours Grades 6-8: 1,050 hours Grades 9-12: 1,100 hours		Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-4-301 Wyo. Admin. Code 206.0002.22 § 5	Set by the trustees of each local school district.		Wyo. Admin. Code 206.0002.22 § 5	Not specified in statute or regulation.		