



50-State Comparison

Instructional Time

What is the state’s requirement for minimum number of hours or minutes per school day?

January 2020

There are many exceptions to instructional time requirements across states, and not all of them are indicated in this 50-State Comparison. View the full instructional time 50-State Comparison [here](#).

STATE ▲	WHAT IS THE STATE'S REQUIREMENT FOR MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS OR MINUTES PER SCHOOL DAY?	NOTES	CITATION
Alabama	6 hours	Excludes recess and lunch.	Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-1-02
Alaska	Grades 1-3: 4 hours All Other Grades: 5 hours	Excludes intermissions.	Alaska Stat. Ann. § 14.03.040
Arizona	N/A		
Arkansas	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

STATE ▲	WHAT IS THE STATE'S REQUIREMENT FOR MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS OR MINUTES PER SCHOOL DAY?	NOTES	CITATION
California	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
Colorado	N/A		
Connecticut	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
Delaware	3.5 hours	Excludes lunch.	Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 1049
District of Columbia	5 hours		D.C. Code Ann. § 38-2901
Florida	N/A		
Georgia	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
Hawaii	N/A		
Idaho	Set by the board of trustees of each school district.		Idaho Code Ann. § 33-512
Illinois	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

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Indiana	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
Iowa	Grades 1-12: 6 hours	Or 30 hours per week. Excludes lunch. Includes parent-teacher conferences and passing periods.	Iowa Code Ann. § 256.7
Kansas	5 hours		K.S.A. 72-3120
Kentucky	6 hours	Kindergarten programs may operate for less than 6 hours with state board approval.	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.060
Louisiana	360 minutes	Excludes recess. For comparison, the instructional minutes are equivalent to: 6 hours	La. Stat. Ann. § 17:154
Maine	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
Maryland	3 hours		Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-103
Massachusetts	N/A		
Michigan	N/A		
Minnesota	N/A		
Mississippi	5.5 hours		Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-13-67
Missouri	3 hours		Mo. Ann. Stat. § 160.041

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Montana	Set by the trustees of a school district.		Mont. Code Ann. § 20-1-302
Nebraska	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 here .	Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 79-101
Nevada	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
New Hampshire	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
New Jersey	Full-day Kindergarten: 2.5 hours Grades 1-12: 4 hours		N.J. Admin. Code § 6A:32-8.3
New Mexico	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
New York	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

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North Carolina	Set by the local school board.		N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-84.2
North Dakota	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
Ohio	N/A		
Oklahoma	6 hours		Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 1-111
Oregon		Oregon sets maximum hours per day: Grades K-8: 8 hours Grades 9-12: 8.5 hours	Or. Admin. R. 581-022-2320
Pennsylvania	Kindergarten: 2.5 hours Grades 1-8: 5 hours Grades 9-12: 5.5 hours		22 Pa. Code § 51.6
Puerto Rico	Set by the Secretary of Education.		§ 145t Academic duties and obligations of the Secretary, 3 L.P.R.A. § 145t
Rhode Island	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
South Carolina	6 hours	Includes lunch for elementary students. Excludes lunch for secondary students.	S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-425
South Dakota	Set by each local school board.		S.D. Codified Laws § 13-26-1

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Tennessee	Kindergarten: 4 hours Grades 1-12: 6.5 hours		Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-201 Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004
Texas	7 hours		Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 29.0822
Utah	Kindergarten: 2 hours Grades 1-12: 4 hours		Utah Admin. Code r. R277-419-2
Vermont	Set by the State Board of Education.	State Board of Education rules can be found here .	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 1071
Virginia	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
Washington	N/A		
West Virginia	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
Wisconsin	N/A		
Wyoming	Set by the trustees of each local school district.		Wyo. Admin. Code 206.0002.22 § 5