

School Calendar Requirements

Missouri statute directs that *each school board shall prepare annually a calendar for the school term* per Section 171.031.1, RSMo. Due to the fact that a number of school districts have moved, or in the future may consider moving, to a school year of less than one-hundred and seventy-four (174) days, it has been determined that additional guidance should be provided to give greater clarity on what needs to be considered when setting such calendars.

School Calendar Options as Provided in Statute

In order to be eligible to receive state aid for its education program a school district must adopt a calendar that meets minimum standards that provide at least 1,044 hours of instruction. School districts may operate under one of three possible calendar scenarios described below:

1. A traditional calendar may be adopted which requires the school board to provide a minimum term of at least 174 days and 1,044 hours of instruction, 171.031.1, RSMo.
 - a. Minimum required hours in a school day of 3 hours per Section 160.041.1, RSMo.
 - b. Maximum possible hours in a school day of 7 hours per Section 171.031.7, RSMo.
2. A calendar of less than 174 days may be adopted by the school board that provides a minimum of at least 1,044 hours of instruction, 171.029.1 RSMo.
 - a. Minimum required hours in a school day of 4 hours per Section 160.041.1, RSMo.
 - b. Maximum possible hours in a school day of 8 hours per Section 171.031.7, RSMo.
3. A calendar of 142 days (four days per week) may be adopted by the school board that provides a minimum of at least 1,044 hours of instruction, 171.031.1, RSMo.
 - a. Minimum required hours in a school day of 4 hours per Section 160.041.1, RSMo.
 - b. Maximum possible hours in a school day of 8 hours per Section 171.031.7, RSMo.

Points of Clarification

1. Districts must establish which type of calendar they will be operating under as well as the number of days they plan to attend school prior to the opening of a new school year. In order to assure that the district has complied with this statute, the planned calendar will be reported to the Department on Core Data Screen 10 by August 15 of each year. Once the type of calendar has been established by the district the number of days of planned attendance cannot be amended or changed after the August 15 reporting date.
2. Districts that operate with a traditional calendar (174 days or more) may not attend fewer than 174 days or 1,044 hours except as forgiven by weather as established in Section 160.041, RSMo.
3. Districts that operate with a calendar of less than 174 days, and with a minimum of 1,044 hours, must attend the number of planned attendance days as certified to the Department on Core Data Screen 10 by August 15 of each year, except as forgiven by weather as established in Sections 171.033 and 160.041, RSMo.
4. Districts that operate with a calendar of 142 days, and with a minimum of 1,044 hours, must attend the number of planned attendance days as certified to the Department on Core Data Screen 10 by August 15 of each year, except as forgiven by weather as established in Sections 171.033 and 160.041, RSMo.
5. Section 163.021.1, RSMo, requires compliance with the minimum term for eligibility for state aid. A school day ending before the minimum required hours of class time does not count toward the day requirement and the hours do not count toward the 1,044 hour requirement. Since the day is not a legal school day, the hours and day do not count for state aid purposes. Such hours are not reported as a part of the school district's calendar and the attendance hours are not reported for the ADA calculation for state aid purposes.

- a. Minimum required hours of class time to count as a school day:
- b. School districts that provide a minimum term of at least 174 days and 1,044 hours of instruction must have at least three hours of class time to count day as an attendance day for calendar purposes.
- c. School districts that provide a minimum term of less than 174 days, and with a minimum of 1,044 hours, must have at least four hours of class time to count day as an attendance day for calendar purposes.