

INSTRUCTIONAL YEAR

Background

Subject to the provisions of the *Education Act*, the Board is responsible for establishing the school instructional year for the Division. The instructional year will be established to ensure that all students can effectively achieve the Board's mission, vision, beliefs, goals and objectives.

Prior to May 31st in each year, the Board will establish the next school instructional year.

Procedures

1. The school instructional year will specify:
 - 1.1 School opening date.
 - 1.2 Number and the days of school operation.
 - 1.3 The length of the school day at each site.
 - 1.4 Number of hours of instruction in the year at each school site (subject to section 18 of the *Education Act*).
 - 1.5 Number and length of recesses and breaks at each school site.
 - 1.6 Vacation periods including:
 - 1.6.1 A school vacation of at least four (4) consecutive weeks in duration.
 - 1.6.2 The Board shall specify the vacation periods in a school year, which shall, as a minimum, include a vacation period that extends at least from December 24th to January 2nd.
 - 1.6.3 The Board, in its discretion may declare one day a month to be a school holiday.
 - 1.6.5 A holiday declared by a municipality does not apply to a school within the municipality unless the Board declares it to be applicable.
 - 1.6.6 The Board shall, before May 31st in each year, give notice to the Minister of:
 - a) The opening and closing dates of all schools under its jurisdiction for the 12-month period next following,
 - b) The dates of the vacation periods in the school year, and,
 - c) The number of hours of instruction to be made available to students in the school year:
 - (i) by grade, and

(ii) by school.

1.6.7 The Board may declare the 2nd Friday of June in any year to be a Farmer's Day holiday.

2. A holiday declared by a municipality does not apply unless the Board declares it to be applicable.
3. The Superintendent or designate, in consultation with school administrators, school councils and the Policy Advisory Committee shall recommend a school year for the Board.
4. The Superintendent or designate shall notify the Minister of Education prior to May 31st of each year with regard to the Board-approved opening and closing days and vacation periods for the next school year.

Reference: Section 18, 60, *Education Act*

Revised April 10, 2013, November 20, 2019