

**State Education Practices (SEP)**  
Compiles and disseminates data on state education practice activities

**Table 5.14. Number of instructional days and hours in the school year, by state: 2018**

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State	Minimum amount of instructional times per school year (by grade, if applicable)		Minimum number of hours per school day	School start/finish
	In days <sup>1</sup>	In hours		
Alabama	180 <sup>2</sup>	1,080	6.0 (excludes lunch and recess)	District option
Alaska	180 <sup>2</sup>	Grades kindergarten-3=740; grades 4-12=900 <sup>3</sup>	Grades 1-3=4.0; grades 4-12=5.0 (excludes intermissions)	District option
Arizona	180	Half-day kindergarten=356; grades 1-3=712; grades 4-6=890; grades 7-8=1,000; grades 9-12=720 (excludes lunch and recess for grades kindergarten-8) <sup>4</sup>	†	District option Start on or after the Monday of the week in which 8/19 falls; no earlier than 8/14 and no later than 8/26
Arkansas	178 <sup>5</sup>	†	6.0 per day, 30.0 per week	
California	180 <sup>6</sup>	Kindergarten=600; grades 1-3=840; grades 4-8=900; grades 9-12=1,080 <sup>7</sup>	Kindergarten=3.0; grades 1-3=3.8; grades 4-12=4.0 <sup>7</sup>	District option
Colorado	160	Half-day kindergarten=435; full-day kindergarten=870; grades 1-5=968; grades 6-12=1,056 <sup>8</sup>	†	District option
Connecticut	180	Half-day kindergarten=450; full-day kindergarten=900; grades 1-12=900	† <sup>9</sup>	District option
Delaware	†	Grades kindergarten-11=1,060; grade 12=1,032	3.5 (excludes lunch)	District option
District of Columbia	180	†	Grades 1-12=6.0 (includes lunch and recess)	District option (single district)
Florida	180 <sup>2</sup>	Grades kindergarten-3=720; grades 4-12=900	†	District option
Georgia	180 or equivalent hours	†	Grades kindergarten-3=4.5; grades 4-5=5.0; grades 6-12=5.5	District option
Hawaii	180 <sup>8, 10</sup>	1,080 <sup>10</sup>	†	District option (single district)
Idaho	District option	Kindergarten=450; grades 1-3=810; grades 4-8=900; grades 9-12=990 (excludes recess, lunch, and passing periods) <sup>5</sup>	District option Half-day kindergarten=2.0; full-day kindergarten-1=4.0; grades 2-12=5.0	District option
Illinois	180 <sup>5</sup>	†	Grades 1-6=5.0; grades 7-12=6.0	District option
Indiana	180	†	Grades 1-12=6.0 per day or 30.0 per week (excludes lunch, includes passing periods) <sup>5</sup>	District option Start no sooner than August 23 and no later than the first Monday in December
Iowa	180 <sup>2</sup>	1,080		
Kansas	Grades kindergarten-11=186; grade 12=181 <sup>2</sup>	Kindergarten=465; grades 1-11=1,116; grade 12=1,086	5.0	District option
Kentucky	170 <sup>11</sup>	1,062	6.0	District option
Louisiana	177 <sup>2, 12</sup>	1,062 <sup>7</sup>	Grades 1-12=6.0 (excludes lunch, recess, passing periods, and parent-teacher conferences) <sup>7</sup>	District option
Maine	175 <sup>13</sup>	†	Kindergarten=2.5; grades 1-12=5.0 <sup>14</sup>	District option
Maryland	180	1,080; 1,170 for public high schools	† <sup>15</sup>	District option
Massachusetts	180	Kindergarten=425; grades 1-5=900; grades 6-12=990 (excludes lunch, recess, passing periods, homeroom, non-directed study periods and time spent receiving school services or participating in optional school programs)	†	District option Start no earlier than Labor Day
Michigan	180 <sup>16</sup>	1,098	†	
Minnesota	Grades 1-11=165	Kindergarten=425; full-day kindergarten=850; grades 1-6=935; grades 7-12=1,020	†	Start no earlier than Labor Day
Mississippi	180	†	5.5	District option
Missouri	5-day week=174; 4-day week=142	Kindergarten=522; grades 1-12=1,044	5-day week=3.0; 4-day week=4.0	Start no earlier than 10 days prior to the first Monday in September
Montana	†	Half-day kindergarten=360; full-day kindergarten=720; grades 1-3=720; grades 4-11=1,080; grade 12=1,050 <sup>5</sup>	†	District option
Nebraska	†	Kindergarten=400; grades 1-8=1,032; grades 9-12=1,080	†	District option
Nevada	180 <sup>5</sup>	†	Kindergarten=2.0; grades 1-2=4.0; grades 3-6=5.0; grades 7-12=5.5 (includes recess and time between lessons; excludes lunch)	District option

State	Minimum amount of instructional times per school year (by grade, if applicable)		Minimum number of hours per school day	School start/finish
	In days <sup>1</sup>	In hours		
New Hampshire	180 <sup>2,17</sup>	Kindergarten=450; grades 1-5=945; grades 6-12=990 <sup>17</sup>	Grades 1-5=5.8; grades 6-12=6.0 (may include up to 30 minutes of recess for grades 1-5)	District option
New Jersey	180	†	Full-day kindergarten=2.5; grades 1-12=4.0	District option
New Mexico	†	Half-day kindergarten=450; full-day kindergarten=990; grades 1-6=990; grades 7-12=1,080 <sup>18</sup>	Half-day kindergarten=2.5; full-day kindergarten=5.5; grades 1-6=5.5; grades 7-12=6.0	District option
New York	180	†	Half-day kindergarten=2.5; full-day kindergarten=5.0; grades 1-6=5.0; grades 7-12=5.5	District option
North Carolina	185 <sup>2</sup>	1,025	†	Start no earlier than Monday closest to 8/19 with approval, otherwise Monday closest to 8/26. Finish no later than Friday closest to 6/11.
North Dakota	175 <sup>5</sup>	Grades kindergarten-8=952; grades 9-12=1,038	Half-day kindergarten=2.8; full-day kindergarten=5.5; grades 1-6=5.5; grades 7-12=6.0	District option
Ohio	District option	Half-day kindergarten=455; full-day kindergarten=910; grades 1-6=910; grades 7-12=1,001	†	District option
Oklahoma	180 <sup>2</sup>	1,080 <sup>5</sup>	6.0	District option
Oregon	†	Half-day kindergarten=450; full-day kindergarten=900; grades 1-8=900; grades 9-11=990; grade 12=966 (includes recess for grades kindergarten-3) <sup>5</sup>	† <sup>19</sup>	District option, but no fewer than 265 consecutive calendar days between first and last instructional day
Pennsylvania	180 <sup>2</sup>	Kindergarten=450; grades 1-8=900; grades 9-12=990	Kindergarten=2.5; grades 1-8=5.0; grades 9-12=5.5	District option
Rhode Island	180 <sup>2</sup>	1,080	Kindergarten=5.5; grades 1-12=6	District option
South Carolina	180 <sup>8</sup>	†	6.0 (elementary includes lunch)	Start no earlier than third Monday in August
South Dakota	District option	Kindergarten=438; grades 1-5=875; grades 6-12=963 (includes intermission for elementary school) <sup>20</sup>	†	District option
Tennessee	180 <sup>8</sup>	†	Kindergarten=4.0; grades 1-12=6.5	Start no earlier than 8/1
Texas	†	1,260 (includes intermissions and recesses) <sup>7</sup>	7.0	Start no earlier than the fourth Monday in August
Utah	180 <sup>5</sup>	Kindergarten=450; grade 1=810; grades 2-12=990	Kindergarten=2.0; grades 1-12=4.0	District option
Vermont	175 <sup>8</sup>	†	Kindergarten=2.0 per day or 10 per week; grades 1-2=4.0 per day or 20 per week; grades 3-12=5.5 per day or 27.5 per week (includes recess for grades 1-8 and excludes lunch)	Determined regionally
Virginia	180 <sup>2</sup>	Kindergarten=540; grades 1-12=990	Kindergarten=3.0; grades 1-12=5.5 (excludes lunch and recess)	Start after Labor Day
Washington	180	Kindergarten=1,000; grades 1-8=1,000; grades 9-12=1,080	†	District option
West Virginia	180	†	Grades kindergarten-5=5.3; grades 6-8=5.5; grades 9-12=5.8	District option
Wisconsin	†	Kindergarten=437; grades 1-6=1,050; grades 7-12=1,137	†	Start no earlier than 9/1
Wyoming	175	Kindergarten=450; elementary=900; middle/junior high=1,050; secondary=1,100	†	District option

† Not applicable. State does not have a requirement in this category.

<sup>1</sup> For more detailed information on state-level instructional time in days and hours, please refer to the table referenced in the SOURCE portion of this table. The table may be accessed at: <https://www.ecs.org/50-state-comparison-instructional-time-policies/>.

<sup>2</sup> District option to meet either minimum hours per school year or days per school year.

<sup>3</sup> For all grades, hours only apply if board submits an acceptable plan under which students will receive the educational equivalent of 180 days.

<sup>4</sup> Students in grades 9-12 must enroll in at least 4 subjects, in addition to the hour requirement.

<sup>5</sup> May include in-service professional development days, staff development, parent-teacher conferences, planning, or similar activities.

<sup>6</sup> Charter schools and select districts are required 175 days. More details may be found at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/pa/lcfitifag.asp>.

<sup>7</sup> State specifies instructional time in minutes.

<sup>8</sup> May exclude professional development days, in-service education, planning, parent-teacher conferences, and similar activities.

<sup>9</sup> Districts may count up to 7 hours/day toward the total required for the year.

<sup>10</sup> Does not apply to charter and multi-track schools.

<sup>11</sup> 185-day calendar that includes 170 instructional days, plus 4 days for professional development.

<sup>12</sup> Early dismissal of seniors allowed up to 10 instructional days.

<sup>13</sup> Students in grade 12 may have their year reduced to 170 days.

<sup>14</sup> Minimum length of a day is 3 hours, but the average over a 2-week period must be at least 5 hours.

<sup>15</sup> Schools must be open for pupil attendance for at least 3 hours.

<sup>16</sup> If a collective bargaining agreement that provides a complete school calendar was in effect, then this does not apply until after the expiration of that collective bargaining agreement.

<sup>17</sup> High school seniors' school year may be reduced by up to 5 days or 30 hours.

<sup>18</sup> Thirty-three hours of the full-day kindergarten program and twenty-two hours of grades 1-6 may be used for home visits by the teacher or for parent-teacher conferences. Twelve hours of grades 7-12 may be used to consult with parents or for parent-teacher conferences.

<sup>19</sup> Oregon sets maximum, rather than minimum, hours/day: grades kindergarten-8=8.0 hours; grades 9-12=8.5 hours.

<sup>20</sup> School boards may release graduating seniors prior to the end of the school year.

SOURCE: Education Commission of the States, *50 State Comparison: Instructional Time Policies*, retrieved June 6, 2018 from <https://www.ecs.org/50-state-comparison-instructional-time-policies/>. Data Source.

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- Home
- About
- Publications
- Data
- Funding
- News

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- NCEE
- NCER
- NCES
  - Home
  - About
  - Programs
  - Publications
  - Data
  - Data Training
  - School Search
  - News
  - Kids' Zone
- NCSER

- ED Data Inventory
- IES Diversity Statement
- NCES Statistical Standards
- Peer Review Process
- Privacy and Security Policies
- Public Access Policy

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- ERIC
- Sitemap
- Organizational Chart