



FAQ Performance Qualified Districts/Qualified High Schools

IC 20-24.2

2014-2015 Academic Year

The Indiana General Assembly passed legislation during the 2013 session which allows high performing high schools and districts flexibility in how they schedule their school year to meet the 180 day requirement using minutes, rather than days.

1. What is a "Qualified District/Qualified High School"?

A "Qualified district" refers to a performance qualified school district. A "Qualified high school" refers to a performance qualified high school or a high school that receives a waiver under IC 20-24.2-3.

2. How does a district or high school become performance qualified?

To be designated as a qualified district, a school corporation must be placed in the highest performance and improvement category or designation for the 2011-2012 school year or any school year thereafter.

To be designated as a qualified high school, a high school must be placed in the highest performance and improvement category or designation under IC 20-31-8 for the 2011-2012 school year or any school year thereafter.

3. How soon can a qualifying high school or district take advantage of IC 20-24.2?

This legislation became law on July 1, 2013. Schools may begin implementation during the current 2013-2014 school year.

4. Can a high school, who has not earned an "A" rating, qualify if a district qualifies?

Yes.

5. Does a 9-10 or 9th grade only building qualify as a high school?

Yes. These configurations would qualify as a high school.



6. Does a K-12 qualify as a high school; does a 7-12 building qualify as a high school with a single school number qualify?

No. Only those schools that start with the 9th, 10, or 11th grades as their lowest grade will qualify as a high school.

7. What is the earliest year of PL 221 letter grades can be used to qualify as a Qualified District/High School?

2011-2012 school year or any school year thereafter can be used to take advantage of this statute.

8. Can elementary schools and middle schools qualify and participate?

Yes, if their public school district qualifies as a High Performing District.

No, if they are a non-public school. Only non-public high schools are eligible to qualify.

9. What must a Qualified District/Qualified High School do?

(a) A qualified district or qualified high school shall ensure continued compliance with:

(1) applicable federal and state laws; and

(2) The Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Indiana.

(b) A qualified district or qualified high school is subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions that prohibit discrimination.

10. Qualified districts and qualified high schools do not have to meet the 180-day requirement in the traditional manner. How can a qualified district or qualified school meet the minimum amount of instructional time in an academic year?

A school must meet or exceed the number of instructional minutes accumulated during a single year. The new baseline is the largest number of minutes in any of the last five years.

If a high school exceeds the daily minimum of 360 minutes by 15 minutes, or 375 minutes per day, their yearly baseline would be 375 times 180 days. 67,500 minutes, not 64,800 [360 times 180 days].



11. Did the legislation impact any other areas related to instructional time.

The legislature added student activities that:

- (1) are organized by the qualified district or qualified high school;
- (2) occur outside the traditional classroom; and
- (3) are designed to provide instruction, academic enrichment, **or college and career readiness training;**

are included as student instructional time.¹

12. If instructional time can be measured by minutes and not days over the course of a year, does that mean that half days can be utilized?

Yes, as long as the total number of minutes equals the 180-day equivalent number required for the individual school. Remember, the number of minutes required is not the same for each school. It is determined by the largest number of instructional minutes within the last five school years.

13. Does the instructional day remain five hours for grades K-6 and six hours for grades 7-12?

Yes, however a high school student who is enrolled in at least twelve (12) credit hours of on-campus dual credit courses (as described in IC 21-43-1-2.5) is not required to comply with subsection (a) during the semester in which the student is enrolled in at least twelve (12) credit hours.

¹ As amended in Senate Enrolled Act 330, effective July 1, 2014.



14. When must a district finalize their calendar in the DOE-CL application?

Schools must finalize their calendar in the DOE-CL by August 1, or five days after the first day of school of each year. Certification of the ending year still must be completed by June 15, five days after the last student instructional day.

15. Once submitted, can Qualified Districts or Schools change their calendar or daily instructional time schedule during the school year?

Schools utilizing provisions under the Qualified District/High School statute may not change their daily time schedule once established for that school year.

16. Can schools using the flexibility of this statute use it to replace cancelled instructional days because of snow, thus avoiding using make-up instructional days?

No

17. When does the Qualified District/High School designation expire?

Sec. 3. (a) A school corporation that is designated as a qualified district under this chapter is considered a qualified district until:

- (1) the school corporation's performance and improvement rating falls two (2) or more categories in a one (1) year period; or
- (2) the school corporation receives a performance and improvement rating in the second highest category or designation or lower for two (2) consecutive years.

(b) A high school that is designated as a qualified high school under this chapter is considered a qualified high school until:

- (1) the high school's performance and improvement rating falls two (2) or more categories in a one (1) year period; or
- (2) the high school receives a performance and improvement rating in the second highest category or designation or lower for two (2) consecutive years.

18. Can a school or district be financially disadvantaged or harmed by becoming a Performance Qualified School or District?

Notwithstanding any other law, a school corporation may not receive a decrease in state funding based upon the school corporation's status as a qualified district or the status of a high school within the school corporation as a qualified high school, or because of the



implementation of a waiver of a statute or rule that is allowed to be waived by a qualified district or qualified high school.

19. How can Performance Districts/High School display their status?

1. A qualified district may display the words "Indiana Performance Qualified School District" on the qualified district's correspondence, Internet web site, and any other communications representing the qualified district.
2. A qualified high school may display the words "Indiana Performance Qualified High School" on the high school's correspondence, Internet web site, and any other communications representing the high school.