

DRAFT MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals, School Leaders
FROM: Indiana Department of Education
RE: Instructional Time Requirements for SY 2020-2021
DATE: June 12, 2020

Pursuant to IC 20-30-2-3, a school corporation shall conduct at least 180 student instructional days during each school year. While the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) continues to advocate for flexibility around this requirement in light of the current health crisis, this 180 instructional day requirement currently remains in place for the 2020-2021 SY. In order to count as an instructional day, a school corporation must provide:

- at least 5 hours of instructional time for grades 1 through 6; and
- at least 6 hours of instructional time for grades 7 through 12. (See IC 20-30-2-2).

“Instructional time” is defined as time during which students are participating in an approved course, a curriculum, or an educationally related activity under the direction of a teacher. Instructional time also includes a “reasonable amount” of passing time between classes. Instructional time does not include lunch or recess (see IC 20-30-2-1).

IDOE recognizes that corporations and schools are continuing to work through the many COVID-19 related obstacles presented to the provision of instruction and the daily operations of school, as Indiana looks to reopen school buildings for the 2020-2021 school year. One such challenge presented to corporations and schools is ensuring compliance with instructional time requirements while providing a safe environment for students and faculty.

Please note that Indiana statute provides a “reasonable amount” of time for transitioning between classes, which can be attributed to the instructional day. The determination of reasonableness is made at the local school corporation and school level, and is not explicitly defined by law. Further, what is considered “passing time” or a transition between classes is determined at the local level. The Department does not audit the total number of instructional hours provided; the Department only reviews to determine whether a school met the 180 instructional day requirement.

While school corporations have autonomy to establish calendars, IDOE is available to provide technical assistance. Please contact schoolaccountability@doe.in.gov with any questions.