

Book	Policy Manual
Section	800 Operations
Title	School Calendar
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Purpose

The Joint Operating Committee recognizes that preparation of an annual school calendar is necessary for the efficient operation of the center (school).

Authority

The Joint Operating Committee shall determine annually the days and the hours when the center (school) shall be in session for instructional purposes, in accordance with state law and regulations. **This may include, as appropriate, activities qualifying as instructional days under the direction of certified center (school) employees for fulfilling the minimum required days of instruction under law and regulations.**[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

The school calendar shall normally consist of a minimum of 180 student days.[\[1\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)

The Joint Operating Committee reserves the right to alter the school calendar when it is in the best interests of the center (school).

When an emergency arises, which the Joint Operating Committee could not anticipate or foresee, and such emergency results in the center (school) being unable to provide for the in-person attendance of all students during the established length of school days, number of days per week or hours of classes, the Joint Operating Committee may establish temporary provisions during the period of emergency. During an open regular or special Joint Operating Committee meeting, the Joint Operating Committee shall take action to identify the emergency and establish the temporary provisions. Such action shall be recorded in the Joint Operating Committee minutes for the open meeting and certified with the Secretary of Education in the form prescribed by the PA Department of Education for review or approval. The Joint Operating Committee shall enact the temporary provisions in response to the emergency, which may remain in effect for a period of no more than four (4) years.[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)

Temporary provisions established in accordance with law may include but are not limited to:[\[10\]](#)

- Keeping schools in session such days and number of days per week as the Joint Operating Committee deems necessary, which shall include maintaining the requirement for a minimum of 180 student days.**
- Reducing the length of time of daily instruction for courses and classes.**
- Implementing remote and other alternative methods of delivering instruction under the direction of certified center (school) employees.**[\[7\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Administrative Director shall annually prepare a school calendar for Joint Operating Committee consideration.

The Administrative Director shall communicate and cooperate with the participating school districts when preparing the proposed school calendar.

The Administrative Director or designee shall document alterations to the school calendar and any temporary provisions established in response to a designated emergency in accordance with law, regulations, guidance from the PA Department of Education or Joint Operating Committee policy.[\[12\]](#)

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Legal	1. 24 P.S. 1501
	2. 24 P.S. 1501.9
	3. 24 P.S. 1502
	4. 24 P.S. 1503
	5. 24 P.S. 1504
	6. 24 P.S. 1506
	7. 22 PA Code 11.2
	8. 22 PA Code 4.4
	9. 22 PA Code 11.1
	10. 24 P.S. 520.1
	11. Pol. 006
	12. Pol. 805