SCHOOL YEAR

It shall be the policy of this district to provide sufficient instructional time for students to attain mastery of specific learner objectives at all instructional levels. Said time shall be allocated and protected to provide student engagement rates (time-on-task) which are sufficient to provide mastery. In order to insure that adequate instructional time is provided, the Board of Trustees directs the superintendent and his staff to incorporate the following directives into all instructional plans for the district.

A. The opening date of the school year for students shall be no earlier than August 1 and the closing date shall be no later than June 15.

B. The school year shall consist of a minimum of 180 teaching days, each with a minimum of 330 minutes of instruction. The Commission on School Accreditation shall be requested to approve any scheduling configuration which does not meet the 330 minutes minimum per day. Each abbreviated day must provide at least 60% of the 330 minutes (198 minutes) minimum instructional time.

C. Days on which extra-curricular activities prevent the completion of 330 minutes of instruction shall not be counted as one of the 180 teaching days, with no less than 330 minutes of academic instruction.

D. The District will not participate in any activity that requires a student to miss more than a total of twenty (20) class periods in courses for which grades and/or units of credit are issued during the school year.

E. During the school year, a student will not be allowed more than five (5) planned absences (activities) to occur in the same class period in courses for which grades and/or units of credit are issued.

F. A minimum of 60% of classroom instructional time in the kindergarten program will be spent in learning center activities.

G. Scheduled academic instructional time shall be protected from undue interruption or delay.

H. In the event that an emergency situation results in the school district’s not meeting the minimum instructional time specified, the State Superintendent of Education may declare a state of emergency and allow the school district to make up actual time lost in increments no less than the length of one class period.

I. Two of the 180 days may be 60% days provided that there are 198 minutes of actual instruction or testing and the remainder of each day is used for staff development or other activities related to instruction.
J. Athletic activities (practice, competition, or travel) are prohibited during the teaching day, if the school is on a six-period day. If the teaching day in the school is comprised of seven periods, the student may participate in one class period which involves physical education or athletic practice. Travel time for the purpose of competition may be scheduled during the seventh period if the student involved is scheduled for athletic activities during that period.

K. The scheduling of competition in extracurricular activities (K-12) such as athletics, band, speech, debate, drama, choral groups, etc., is prohibited during days that tests included in the statewide testing program are administered. This prohibition extends to the day before testing begins, but does not include days scheduled for make-up testing.

The school district schedules preparation for graduation ceremonies in such manner that graduating seniors are absent from classes for no more than three days prior to the end of the school year. (177 days).

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Jackson, Mississippi
LEGAL REF.: Mississippi Public Accountability Standards
DATE: November 17, 1997
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