



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner of Education

DATE: November 12, 2020

SUBJECT: Clarification Related to Questions regarding 180 Days/177 days

A question has been raised by school districts regarding the July 14, 2020, Connecticut State Board of Education resolution allowing school districts to have 177 days of student instruction versus 180 days, which permitted three days to be used at the beginning of the school year for the purpose of building capacity to safely transition back to in-person services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this communication is to clarify that if your district moved to 177 days consistent with the requirements of the resolution, it would be expected that the schools provide school work hours (a minimum of 885 hours) during the 2020-2021 school year. Knowing that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic there are substantial flexibilities in place to support districts' ability to mitigate public health concerns, we cannot sacrifice access to instruction.

It is an expectation of the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the State Board of Education that school districts provide continuity of learning within the district designed progression to arrive at a minimum of 885 hours of actual school work. Please consult the resources the CSDE has previously published, including the [Plan for Reimagining CT Classrooms for Continuous Learning](#) and Addendum 12: [Reimagining CT Classrooms: Planning the Instructional Time for Remote Learning in Hybrid and Full Remote Models](#) as tools to evaluate your local models, and be intentional in the design of future learning. While Addendum 12 provides important guidance distinguishing between “direct engaged learning” and other types of remote school work, such as independent or small group learning opportunities and social emotional experiences, planning for a full school day is important to reach this requirement.

Connecticut schools have been in session for approximately 8 weeks. Use this memorandum as an opportunity to evaluate the current practices, process, and instructional plans in place for your learners. If the calculation of the hours of actual school work by grade and day are not on pace to achieve 885 hours of actual school work by the end of the year, this is the moment to determine where within the model to make changes to reach that standard. Additionally, please note that guidance for the ED165 Connecticut School Data Report for 2020-21 will be amended so districts can demonstrate the requirements addressed in this correspondence.

The traditional model of schooling has been reimagined. We have rewritten the rules and designed a statewide educational framework that now includes blended and remote learning environments, and the use of dynamic digital tools to adapt to the needs of our educators, students, and parents, during the pandemic. Though the implementation of this design has not been easy and our school community has been presented with unique barriers, together we have persisted in our pursuit to learn and grow, reimagine the school day, change the lexicon, and create equity-based classrooms. We are all positioned for success while facing the future normal.

For questions, please contact Chief Academic Officer Irene E. Parisi at Irene.Parisi@ct.gov.

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cc: Desi D. Nesmith, Deputy Commissioner of Academics and Innovation, CSDE
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