Division of Funding and Disbursement Services

School Districts/Regional Offices of Education/Intermediate Service Centers

Public Act 97-0742 - 5 Hours of Instruction on First and Last Day of School
Effective June 30, 2013

Public Act 97-0742 removes School Code language that allows the first and last day of student attendance to be less than 5 instructional hours, effective June 30, 2013.

Senate Bill 2850 was signed by Governor Quinn on July 5, 2012 to become Public Act 97-0742 and has an effective date of June 30, 2013. This public act repeals Section 18-8.05 (F)(2)(b) of the School Code which allows the first and last day of student attendance to be less than 5 instructional hours. Except as otherwise provided in Section 18-8.05 of the School Code, beginning with the 2013-14 school year calendar, for Public School Calendar and General State Aid attendance calculation purposes, days of attendance by pupils, including the first and last day of student attendance, shall be counted only for sessions of not less than 5 clock hours of school work per day.

Public School Calendars for the 2012-13 school year are NOT impacted by this change because, until the June 30, 2013 effective date, the language in Section 18-8.05 (F)(2)(b) remains in the School Code allowing the first and last day of student attendance to be less than 5 clock hours of instruction and still count toward the minimum calendar days required. However, for 2013-14 Public School Calendars, the first and last day of student attendance requires that a minimum of 5 clock hours of instruction must be provided for the day to count toward the minimum calendar days required.

The most frequently asked question is “Can a half day be scheduled on the first and last day of school?” The answer is yes, as provided in Section 18-8.05 (F)(2)(d) of the School Code. The first day of student attendance may be scheduled as either a half day teacher in-service or half day parent/teacher conference which uses one of the 5 allowable halves. The last day of student attendance may be scheduled as a half day teacher in-service or half day parent/teacher conference, again using one of the 5 allowable halves, or, providing that adequate time has been banked, a half day school improvement day. As a reminder, on any calendar coded half day a minimum of 3 hours of instruction must be provided and only students who receive at least 3 hours of instruction may be claimed for a full day of attendance on calendar coded half days. On calendar coded half days, students who receive less than 3 hours of instruction but at least 150 minutes of instruction may be claimed for half a day of attendance. No attendance may be claimed for students who receive less than 150 minutes of instruction.

The public act does not affect scheduling Teacher Institute days at the beginning or end of the school year, as they are not considered pupil attendance days. This language only affects the first and last day of student attendance. If you have additional questions, please contact Marj Beck at mbeck@isbe.net or 217/782-5256.