

State Board of Education Commissioner's Report

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner

Karen Morrison, Deputy Commissioner

01/22/2025



Agenda

- Attendance Report Follow Up
- DEED Next Steps

Alaska Instruction Requirements

INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS

- Alaska mandates a minimum of 180 instructional days per school year
- Up to 10 days can be used for non-instructional purposes:
In-service education | Teacher conferences | Professional development

INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS PER DAY *(EXCLUDING INTERMISSIONS)*

- Grades 1-3 | *Minimum of 4 hours of instruction*
- Grades 4-12 | *Minimum of 5 hours of instruction*

State to State Comparison

More Than 180 Days
Illinois*
Kansas
North Carolina

Fewer Than 180 Days
Colorado*
Kentucky*
Louisiana
Minnesota
Vermont
Wyoming

Minimum Required: 180 Days	
Alabama	Mississippi
Alaska*	Nevada*
Arizona	New Hampshire
California	New Jersey
Connecticut	New York*
District of Columbia	Oklahoma*
Florida	Pennsylvania
Georgia*	Rhode Island
Hawaii	South Carolina*
Indiana	Tennessee
Iowa	Utah
Maine*	Virginia
Maryland	Washington
Massachusetts	West Virginia
Michigan	

Specified in Hours
Arkansas
Delaware
Idaho
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
New Mexico*
North Dakota*
Ohio*
Oregon*
South Dakota*
Texas (Minutes)
Wisconsin

*Allows use of instructional days for non-instruction purposes, such as parent-teacher conferences or professional development.

State to State Comparison

INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS

REQUIRING 180 INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS

Use of instructional days for non-instructional purposes

28 STATES + DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

7 States

REQUIRING >180 INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS

Use of instructional days for non-instructional purposes

3 STATES

1 State

REQUIRING <180 INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS

Use of instructional days for non-instructional purposes

6 STATES

2 States

SPECIFIED REQUIREMENTS IN HRS/MINS

13 STATES

State to State Comparison

INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

Too many variables exist across states, making a state-to-state comparison challenging.

Examples of variables:

- Requirements often by grade band (e.g., elementary vs. secondary schools).
- Policies that may include or exclude passing times, recess, and lunch in the total instructional hours.
- States differing in whether instructional time is measured in daily or weekly minutes.

SBOE: Safety & Well-being Committee

ATTENDANCE REPORT FOLLOW UP

- Member Tyndall requested the team identify and recommend next steps

DEPARTMENT ACTION

- Develop interdisciplinary team
 - Align School Improvement Plans
 - Develop communication plan & awareness campaign
 - Develop resources for school districts

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- Our website: education.alaska.gov
- Facebook and Twitter: @AlaskaDEED

Give us a ring:

- Main line: 907 465 2800
- Teacher Certification: 907 465 2831