**SCHOOL CALENDAR AND TIME FOR LEARNING** *Policy Code:* **3300**

The board believes that time is a variable in the educational process and that children may need different amounts of instructional time in order to fulfill the educational goals and objectives of the board. The board also recognizes that the school day and school year should be planned in such a manner as to facilitate scholar learning and to permit an accurate assessment of scholar achievement in scheduled testing periods.

1. **Instructional Time**

Interruptions of instructional time and time off task must be kept to a minimum. The principal is responsible for ensuring that instructional time is maintained and protected in the school schedule. Each teacher is responsible for ensuring optimal use of instructional time in his or her classes. School personnel are encouraged to seek creative means of reducing transitional time and scheduling non-instructional activities.

1. **School Day**

The “instructional” day includes only those hours a scholar is assigned to a teacher for the primary purpose of instruction. Breaks in the instructional day for changing classes, homeroom, lunch, pep rallies, and similar non-instructional activities are not part of the instructional day and may not be counted towards the minimum instructional hours requirement established in Section D, below.

1. **Opening and Closing Dates**

The opening date and ending date for scholars will be determined by the board’s adoption of the academic calendar recommended by the executive director.

The board may offer supplemental or additional educational programs or activities outside the adopted school calendar.

The board will revise the closing date only if necessary to comply with the minimum requirements for instructional days or instructional time.

1. **School Calendar**

The school calendar may provide up to 200 instructional days, but will provide for a minimum of 185 days of instruction that are regular school days with attendance required on the NERSBA or designated community college campuses. All instructional days above 185 are  Home Satellite Days, Career Exploration Days and Scholar Volunteer Days. Scholars are required to participate in such designated school days.

**Home Satellite Days**

Home Satellite Days are scheduled to provide opportunities for scholars to work from home using lessons and activities assigned by the NERSBA staff via the use of online technology and resources. Scholars are responsible for completing all assignments given by the staff by 4:00 p.m. on that day. Each assignment is considered a classwork grade. If the assignment is not completed and submitted, the scholar will receive a “0” for the assignment and be marked absent for the day.

**Volunteer Days**

NERSBA is invested in serving the communities of the 5 counties in which it serves. In order to promote the importance of giving back to the community, NERSBA has scheduled Volunteer Days throughout the school year for the scholar to complete this requirement. Each scholar is required to complete at least 18 hours volunteering in his/her respective community during the school year. In order to receive credit and be counted present for these days, the scholar must submit the required documentation.

**Career Exploration Days**

Career Exploration Days are built into the school year for all NERSBA scholars and are noted on our academic calendar.   These events will introduce scholars to a variety of careers by allowing them to participate at on-site locations with hands on activities and interactions with employers.   Visits may include local industry, medical facilities, businesses and/or educational institutions. Underclass scholars will participate in coordinated group events at specific employers and businesses.   Upperclassmen will have the opportunity to job shadow on these and other announced dates.

If the board adopts a school calendar that increases the number of regular school days, the number of Home Satellite Days, Career Exploration Days and Scholar Volunteer Days will be reduced to maintain the 200 days of instruction.

If school is closed early due to inclement weather,the day and the number of instructional hours originally scheduled may count towards the required minimum number of instructional days or hours.

The board may initiate or review recommendations from the principal for modifying the school calendar. The executive director is encouraged to obtain input from teachers and other personnel as well as from the community in developing proposals for modifying the school calendar.

Any calendar adopted by the board will be consistent with the following requirements.

1. The calendar will meet state requirements for the minimum instructional days and/or the minimum instructional hours.
2. At least 10 of the days on the calendar will be designated as annual vacation leave days.
3. The calendar will include the same or an equivalent number of legal holidays as those designated by the State Human Resources Commission for State employees, including Veteran’s Day if it falls on a weekday.
4. School will not be scheduled on Sundays.
5. The calendar will designate “instructional” days, when scholars must be present.
6. The remaining days will be scheduled by the board, in consultation with the executive director, as “flexible” days, for use as teacher workdays, additional instructional days, or other lawful purposes.
7. Of the “flexible” days described in subsection D.7, the board will designate at least two days as protected days on which teachers may take accumulated vacation leave. All other “flexible” days may be designated as days on which teachers may take accumulated leave, but the board will give teachers at least 14 calendar days’ notice before requiring a teacher to work instead of taking vacation leave on any of these days. A teacher may elect to waive this notice requirement for one or more of these days.
8. The board may, due to school closings because of inclement weather or other reasons, use any of the “flexible” days designated in subsection D.7 above as make-up days for those instructional days that were missed. If necessary, these make-up days may be scheduled after the last day of scholar attendance. If either of the two protected days described in subsection D.8 above are scheduled as a make-up day, teachers may take accumulated vacation leave on the make-up day and will not be required to work.

1. If the school calendar requires scholars to attend on Memorial Day, the executive director shall ensure that scholars are instructed on the significance of Memorial Day on that day.
2. If the school calendar requires scholars to attend school on September 17, which is Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, the principal shall ensure that an educational program about the United States Constitution is held in the school on that day. If scholars are not required to attend school on September 17, the principal shall ensure that such a program is held during the week preceding or following Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.
3. November 11 will be a holiday for faculty and scholars. The month of November shall be designated “Veterans’ History Awareness Month.”

Legal References: P.L. 108-447, div. J, title I, sec. 111 (codified as a statutory note to 36 U.S.C. 106(d)); G.S. 115C-238.66(1)

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Citizenship and Character Education (policy 3530)

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