

AF-R School Day

7/1/23

RATIONALE/OBJECTIVE:

A goal of the instructional program of Cobb County School District (District) is for each student to demonstrate academic achievement at levels commensurate with challenging and yearly individual learning goals benchmarked to state, national and international standards. Achievement of that goal depends partly upon reducing student and staff distraction from the task of learning when events encroach upon instructional time.

RULE:**A. INSTRUCTIONAL YEAR/DAY:**

The District complies, as a minimum, with the Georgia law, Georgia Board of Education Rules, and applicable accrediting agency standards, as they relate to required instructional time, teacher preparation and planning time, and the prevention of too frequent interruption of learning activities. Applicable Georgia Board of Education Rules include but are not limited to the following:

1. 160-5-1-.02 School Day and School Year for Students and Employees;
2. 160-4-2-.05 Middle School Program Criteria;
3. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-323; and
4. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-218

Also see Administrative Rule JHD-R (Student Social Events)

B. ADMINISTRATIVELY SCHEDULED NON-INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Administrators of elementary, middle and high schools may use a maximum of the equivalent of 10 instructional days per year to schedule non-instructional activities. These activities are defined as those involving instructional time which are not coordinated by a certified teacher (or substitute) and not relating directly to the course content as defined in Cobb County Curriculum guides.

No one class period (segment) may be missed more than 10 times by students for administratively scheduled non-instructional activities.

C. UNSTRUCTURED BREAK TIME (RECESS) IN GRADES K-8:**1. Grades K-5:**

In accordance with Georgia Code § 20-2-323 each elementary school principal, with input from grade level teachers, the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and their designated assistant superintendent, shall schedule recess for all students in kindergarten and grades one through five every school day; provided, however, that recess shall not be required on any school day on which a student has had physical education or structured activity time or if reasonable circumstances impede such recess, such as inclement weather when no indoor space is available, assemblies or field trips exceeding their scheduled duration, conflicts occurring at the scheduled recess time over which the classroom teacher has no control, or emergencies, disasters, or acts of God . The principal will establish guidelines that:

- a. Define the length, frequency, timing and location of breaks for students;
- b. State whether or not breaks can be withheld from students for disciplinary and/or academic reasons, and the conditions under which such breaks could be withheld;
- c. Ensure break time is well supervised and safe (Administrative Rule JG-R [Student Welfare] and JGFB-R [Supervision of Students]); and

d. Ensure that each student receives maximum instructional time to support increased student achievement.

2. **Grades 6-8:**

Middle school students are required to have 300 minutes in the academic block of classes. Additionally, middle school students participate in connections classes and the middle school health and physical education program. Middle school students have unstructured, supervised, scheduled break time from instruction during class changes. Additional unstructured break time is not authorized at the middle school level.

Also see Administrative Rule JHD-R (Student Social Events)

Adopted: 7/11/84

Revised: 8/8/84; 3/24/88; 1/10/90; 6/25/92; 8/9/95; 3/13/02

Reclassified an Administrative Rule: 9/1/04

Revised: 11/10/04; 3/10/10; 6/8/11

Revised and Re-coded: 5/17/12 (previously coded as Administrative Rule ID)

Revised: 3/11/13; 2/11/19; 8/1/22; 7/1/23

Legal Reference

O.C.G.A. 20-2-168

Distribution of federal funds; summer school programs; year-round operation

O.C.G.A. 20-2-218

Duty-free lunch period; exchange of lunch period for compensation or other benefit; length of

O.C.G.A 20-2-323

school day not affected; exemption for extenuating circumstances; funding

Rule 160-4-2-.31

Unstructured break time for students in kindergarten through grade eight

Rule 160-5-1-.02

Hospital/Homebound Instruction

Rule 160-5-1-.10

School Day and School Year for Students and Employees

Student Attendance