

## **House Bill 1864**

Approved and signed by Governor Henry April 24, 2009

This bill relates to the length of the school year and provides for calculation of the school year by days or hours.

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

1. Must all school districts **declare** what type of calendar their local boards have approved?
  - Yes, **prior** to September 15 of the applicable school year, the school district must send to the Accreditation Division, State Department of Education, a letter of notification if they have approved a calendar based on 1080 hours.
  - It is recommended that the local school district send a letter of notification with the signatures of the Superintendent and Board President, together with documentation of local board approval by September 1, 2009.
2. If a school district approves a calendar based on days (i.e.,  $175 + 5 = 180$ ), according to House Bill 1864, Section 1, Subsection 1-109.1 and 1-109.2, may the district change their choice when inclement weather occurs?
  - No, the district may not deviate from their calendar choice at a later date.
3. Are weather-related issues the only approved reasons for deviating from the six (6) hour day?
  - Yes.
4. May districts have less than six (6) hours per day for any reason, if not weather related?
  - No, this bill relates only to inclement weather issues.
  - Other statutory exceptions to the six-hour school day include the high school extended day schedule, alternative education, early childhood and kindergarten classes.
5. How many hours may be used for Parent-Teacher conferences?
  - Six (6) hours per semester, for a total of twelve (12) hours per school year, may be counted for instructional purposes.
6. How many Professional Days/hours may the school year include?
  - Not more than thirty (30) hours each school year may be used for attendance of professional meetings which is equivalent to five (5) days.
  - If less than thirty (30) hours is used for professional meetings, the remaining hours must be instructional time in order to meet the 1080 hours requirement.

7. Can Saturday school be counted as an instructional day?
  - Yes, but only with State Board of Education approval. A statutory waiver must be submitted to the Accreditation Division, State Department of Education.
8. May a school district use a zero (0-level) hour to compute as part of the instructional day?
  - Yes, **but only** if **all** students **are required** to be in attendance.
9. How does Title 70 O.S. § 1-111 support House Bill 1864?
  - House Bill 1864 defines and requires the six (6) hour school day.