



Flexibility to Define an Instructional Day

School districts in Illinois now have maximum flexibility to define instructional days based on students' needs.



FUNDING ON ENROLLMENT

Public Act 100-0465, also known as the Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success Act (the "Act"), made sweeping changes to education funding in Illinois when it became law on August 31, 2017. The Act based state funding on student enrollment, rather than attendance. The Act sun-setted Section 18-8.05 of the School Code, which had defined a day of attendance as a minimum of five instructional hours. Funding schools on enrollment provides school districts the resources to support all students, especially students in need of support to increase students' attendance.



DEFINING A SCHOOL DAY

Districts, school boards, and collective bargaining units can work together to define an instructional day, making decisions rooted in improving outcomes for all students.



RETHINKING INSTRUCTION

Students learn in a variety of ways and settings. Districts may define student engagement and

student learning differently, such as through a combination of classroom instruction, online instruction, independent research projects, work-based learning, and internships. ISBE encourages districts to use the flexibility afforded in law to innovate new ways of teaching and learning that center on competencies and mastery of subject matter.



STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

Students are in attendance when they are participating in learning – anywhere and anytime. Students are absent when they have not engaged in learning, as defined by the school district, on a given instructional day.



CALENDAR REQUIREMENTS

All school calendars must include at least 176 instructional days. Districts with approved calendars for the 2018-19 school year do not need to modify their current calendars but should ensure they include at least 176 instructional days for next school year.

Email questions to instructionalday@isbe.net, and view the full guidance sent on November 9, 2018, at the link below.

Visit

tinyurl.com/ISBE-InstructionalDay





ISBE on the Road

Flexibility to Define an Instructional Day

ISBE is hitting the road! We have received a number of questions from the field regarding locally defining an instructional day. We are coming to you to answer your questions.

DECEMBER 4

CARBONDALE HIGH SCHOOL

1301 E. Walnut St.
Carbondale, IL
4-6 p.m.

DECEMBER 5

SILAS WILLARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

495 E. Fremont St.
Galesburg, IL
4-6 p.m.

DECEMBER 6

DUPAGE COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

421 N. County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL
4-6 p.m.

DECEMBER 10

WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY

1709 S. 9th St.
Mattoon, IL
4-6 p.m.

DECEMBER 12

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 186 BOARD ROOM

1900 W. Monroe St.
Springfield, IL
4-6 p.m.

DECEMBER 13

ST. CLAIR REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

1000 S. Illinois St.
Belleville, IL
4-6 p.m.

DECEMBER 13

HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR HIGH SCHOOL, S. BUILDING, TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER

999 Kedzie Avenue
Flossmoor, IL
4-6 p.m.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Join us at the following events to ask questions and share your successes and challenges in using instructional day flexibility.

Visit

tinyurl.com/ISBE-InstructionalDay

