Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the length and uses of the school day.

State laws and regulations require that the length of the instructional day for middle and high school students be at least six hours, or its weekly equivalent, excluding lunch. The length of the school day for elementary school students must be six hours, or its weekly equivalent, including lunch.

Schools may reduce the length of the school day to not less than three hours on not more than three days each school year for staff development or for the purpose of administering end-of-semester and end-of-year examinations.

The number of hours in an instructional day may vary as determined by the board and does not have to be uniform among the schools in the district. The administration must obtain board approval before varying the length of the school day.

The district must consult with parents and faculty and obtain board approval before varying the length of the school day.

The schools must give priority to teaching and learning tasks and may interrupt classes only for emergencies.

The amount of time available for instruction determines to a large extent what learning activities may be undertaken effectively. Therefore, in order to provide some balance in the instructional program, the school will give attention to how much time is to be spent on the specific areas of the curriculum. The guidelines which will be followed for allocating time to the components of the instructional program are listed in the Defined Program for School Districts of South Carolina and S.C. State Board of Education Regulations.

**Moment of silence**

All schools will provide for a minute of mandatory silence at the beginning of each school day.

Adopted 4/25/78; Revised 2/15/90, 7/1/03.

Legal references:

A. S. C. Code, 1976, as amended:
   1. Section 59-1-425 - School terms, school days, make-up days.
   2. Section 59-1-443 - Moment of silence.

B. State Board of Education Regulations:
   1. R43-231 - Defined program, grades K-5.
S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

Section 59-1-440 — Provides for length of instructional day.

Section 59-1-443 — Moment of silence.

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

Section 59-1-440 — Minimum hours and use of school day.