**Title: 6200 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

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| Section 1504, as amended by Act 80 of 1969 | **6200 School Calendar**  All Diocesan schools are to be open each school year for at least one hundred eighty (180) days of instruction for pupils. The number of instructional hours in a school year is to be at least 450 for half-time pre-K and kindergarten, 900 for full-time pre-K and kindergarten and elementary, and 990 for secondary. *Exceptions to the requirement for 180 days of instruction or to the daily school hours may be made based on Policy 6200 Professional Learning Days.*  PA State Board of Education defines instruction time for pupils as time in the school day devoted to instruction and instructional activities provided as an integral part of the school program under the direction of certified school employees. For the purposes of determining if an activity, other than instruction of curriculum, conducted during school hours can be counted as instructional hours in lieu of ordinary instruction, the Office of Education has defined the following:  **\*Activities which may be counted as pupil instruction time\***   * Pupil personnel services, such as guidance and counseling services, psychological services, speech pathology and audiology services, and pupil health services conducted during school hours; * Opening exercises, including circle time in pre-K and kindergarten, homeroom periods, supervised study halls, and time when students are eating breakfast during the regularly scheduled homeroom periods or during classroom instruction; * Assemblies, clubs, student councils, and similar activities conducted during school hours; * School, group, or class educational trips, to which admission is not charged to students or parents, if accompanied by a certificated school employee; * Civil defense, fire and, other similar drills; * Pre-K and kindergarten orientation activities, snack-time, and play-time if they are an integral part of the pre-K and kindergarten curriculum as long as they take place under the direction of a certified teacher and are used for students learning experiences. (Note: "Recess" time conducted with the same parameters as primary grade recess is not counted as instructional time); * For pupils in graduating classes, up to three days for graduation preparation within 60 days of the commencement ceremony under the supervision of certified school employees; * Early dismissal and delayed opening due to inclement weather.   **\*Activities which may not be counted as pupil instruction time\***   * Lunch period. However, an exception is made for: a) special education students identified as moderately to severely handicapped if their Individualized Education Program (IEP) includes teaching social and motor skills related to meal-time activities such as the use of eating utensils; and, b) pre-K students if lunch is an integral part of the pre-K curriculum, takes place under the direction of a certified teacher and is used for student learning experiences; * Recess and time for passing from class to class; * Early dismissal or delayed opening for reasons other than inclement weather; * Teacher meetings dealing with routine matters, such as record keeping responsibilities, and other similar activities; * Transportation of pupils; for example, time spent transporting students to an area vocational-technical school; * Celebrating, picnicking, hunting, fishing, or harvesting crops; * Any activity for which admission is charged to students or parent(s)/guardian(s); * Viewing or reviewing material that has as its purpose the marketing of commercial products.   School calendars will also reflect up to 5 days of Professional Development for teachers (per Diocesan Teacher Contracts) that will be designated as “Faculty In-Service” days (see “Teacher Contracts”).  The Education Office of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown will issue a Diocesan calendar that includes required mandatory “In Service” days for teachers and administrators.  Each school will submit their school calendar to the Education Office by July 1 for the upcoming school year.  SUNDAY AND TRIDUUM ACTIVITY RESTRICTIONS  Scheduling of school activities, athletic events, practices, and rehearsals on Sunday mornings and on the days of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) ***is prohibited*** . |