

Nova Scotia Education Act and Regulations - Extracted References

EXTRACT FROM *Nova Scotia Education Act*

Regulations by Minister

145 (1) The Minister may make regulations

© prescribing the time in session, holidays and vacations of all public schools;

(d) prescribing the minimum number of hours of instruction to which students in the public schools are entitled;

(e) prescribing reporting systems and forms for the administration and effective carrying out of this Act;

EXTRACT FROM *Education Act Ministerial Regulations*

1 These regulations may be cited as the *Ministerial Education Act Regulations*.

School year, holidays, hours of school

2 (1) The school year shall consist of 195 school days.

(2) Every school shall open each year not earlier than the first day of September and not later than the Wednesday following Labour Day, and close not later than the thirtieth day of June.

(3) A school day is any day other than Saturday, Sunday or a statutory holiday which is within the school year.

(4) The Christmas vacation shall commence not earlier than and end not later than dates fixed in each school year by the Minister, and shall consist of Christmas Day and New Year's Day and not fewer than five or more than ten school days.

(5) The spring vacation shall consist of five consecutive school days in March on dates determined by the Minister.

(6) School holidays include Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, and Victoria Day.

3 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, there shall be not less than five hours of teaching in each classroom on each school day; hours of teaching shall mean time during which students are under instruction or otherwise under control or supervision by a teacher and shall not include time spent by the teacher in marking tests or examination papers, for grading and classifying students, when no students are present or under the teacher's control.

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(2) Despite subsection (1), a school board may direct that the total number of hours of scheduled teaching time in a school year for students in the primary grade shall be no less than the product of four hours times the number of days in which teaching is scheduled for students in other grades in the school, and these hours of teaching

(a) may be scheduled by the school board during any part of the time in which students in other grades are receiving instruction; and

(b) shall be provided on each school day.

(3) A school board may direct that not more than six hours of teaching shall be provided on each school day in any classroom.

(4) For the purpose of calculating an instructional day pursuant to subsection (1), a school board

(a) may, except under clause (b), include a recess of not more than fifteen minutes for any class or classes on each school day;

(b) shall not include recess for any high school class or classes.

(5) Where a school board is of the opinion that it is necessary for the health and safety of students in a school that a class or classes of students should be dismissed, the board may dismiss some or all of the classes in the school.

(6) Where a class has been dismissed pursuant to subsection (5) after school has been in session for three hours or more on any day, that day shall be deemed to be a school day of the class for the purposes of the Act and these regulations.

(7) Where a class has been dismissed pursuant to subsection (5) before school has been in session for three hours on any day, that day shall be deemed not to be a school day of the class for the purposes of the Act and these regulations.

(8) With the approval of the Minister, a school board may order that a school be closed on a school day.

(9) When a classroom has not been operated on a school day and the teacher cannot claim the day as a school day under the provisions of Section 11 of the *Governor in Council Education Act Regulations*, with the approval of the regional education officer, school may be taught on any of the following days not regularly included in the school year:

(a) the school days of the spring vacation;

(b) not more than three Saturdays during a school year,

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but no classroom may be in operation for more than 195 days in a school year, and no teacher may teach or claim credit for more than 195 days in a school year.

(10) Despite subsection (9), where the one hundred ninety-fifth school day in any school year falls on a Monday, a school board may declare that the one hundred ninety-fifth school day be observed on the Saturday immediately preceding the Monday.

(11) A school board may direct that not less than four hours of teaching shall be provided on each school day

(a) in classes for students in grades 1 or 2; or

(b) for each class where two classes are taught at different periods on the same day in one school room.

4 (1) A school board may at its discretion and after consideration of each proposal, approve participation by its staff and students in school travel programs within the Province, within Canada or outside Canada, provided that

(a) neither teachers nor students are away from the school for more than fifteen school days, unless a greater number of days is approved by the school board and the regional education officer;

(b) parents of participating students are informed of the purpose, and nature, and are given a detailed itinerary of the program, and the parents give their consent; and

© the board is satisfied that the educational benefits of the program can be considered as equivalent to those that would be received by the students during the same period of time in the classroom setting.

(2) Teachers employed by a board who accompany students on a school travel program may be considered as performing their normal duties as teachers during the days they are so engaged, and these days shall be reckoned as days taught.

(3) No student and no teacher shall, without the consent of the school board, take part in more than one school travel program in any one school year.