

Minimum School Day Requirements

In order to qualify for ADA apportionment, a student must be scheduled to attend for at least the statutory minimum day requirement for the grade level and program enrolled. However, to meet promotion and graduation requirements, pupils will, with minor exceptions, be scheduled for more than the minimum requirement. The minimum day standard varies depending on the grade level and program of instruction.

Every schoolday must meet minimum day standards, otherwise ADA for the schoolday cannot be claimed and the day won't count towards the schooldays. All of these equate to substantial loss of state apportionment. Specific limitations and exceptions apply to all these basic minimum days, particularly for high schools

A sub-minimum (termed "absolute minimum") school day is permissible if the minutes in the school day can be averaged with school adjacent days up to the full number of minutes required for each grade and program. Figure 2.3 on page 2.16 summarizes the minimum school day standards and notates which programs permit the averaging of sub-minimum school days.

Districts participating in Federal and State Meals for Needy programs must provide a meal to qualified students during each schoolday (*Education Code* Section 49550). Needy pupils cannot be inadvertently identified. The meals must meet the requirements of a nutritionally adequate lunch or breakfast as defined in *Education Code* sections 49531 and 49553(a). Be cautious of this requirement especially on minimum, shortened, Saturday (weekend), and summer school days.

Compulsory attendance law requires that pupils attend the public full-time day school or continuation school or classes for the full time designated as the length of the school day by the school district governing board (*Education Code* Section 48200).

Education Code Section 48980(c) requires districts to annually notify parents and guardians of all minimum days. Parents are required to be notified of all days scheduled thereafter not later than one month before the scheduled minimum day.



Helpful Hint:

Block schedules may present noncompliance if pupils are not enrolled for the statutory minimum day required for each grade level, exclusive of concurrent enrollment, work experience, or vocational education. *Education Code* Section 46160 allows junior and high schools to schedule students in classes for at least 1200 minutes during any five-school day week. Under such a schedule, a student may attend less than the schooldays in the week as long as the student attends the required minutes per five-school day week. Separate attendance reporting and tracking would be required to avoid inaccurate (overstating of) ADA.