

8VAC20-131-150. Standard school year and school day.

- A. The standard school year shall be 180 instructional days. The standard school day for students in grades 1 through 12 shall average at least 5½ instructional hours, excluding breaks for meals and recess, and a minimum of three hours for kindergarten.
- B. All students in grades 1 through 12 shall maintain a full day schedule of classes (5½ hours), unless a waiver is granted in accordance with policies defined by the local school board.

8 VAC 20-131-350. Waivers.

Waivers of some of the requirements of these regulations may be granted by the Board of Education based on submission of a request from the division superintendent and chairman of the local school board. The request shall include documentation of the need for the waiver. In no event shall waivers be granted to the requirements of Part III ([8VAC20-131-30](#) et seq.) of these regulations.

Summary of Major Elements: The Montgomery County School Board is requesting a waiver of this regulation through the end of the 2009-2010 school year because the Blacksburg High School gymnasium roof collapsed on February 13, 2010. The entire school building is closed while engineers and building officials determine the structural integrity of the school, shore up the building, and remove the debris where the gymnasium stood.

The Blacksburg High School students are now attending Blacksburg Middle School on a double shift, as the middle school could accommodate all the students. The middle school students continue to receive five hours and 31 minutes of instructional time. The high school students, however, have a four hour and 20 minute instructional day, and attend school from 2:00 p.m. until 7:15 p.m.

In a related action, the Montgomery County School Board adopted a policy permitting students to be awarded standard units of credit even though the student completes less than 140 hours of instructional time. Such a policy is permitted by 8 VAC 20-131-110, and applies only to the 2009-2010 school year.

A copy of the complete package submitted by the Montgomery County School Board is attached.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept for first review the request from Montgomery County Public Schools.

Impact on Resources: The impact on resources is not expected to be significant.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: The request will be presented to the Board of Education for final review and approval at the May 27, 2010 meeting. Upon approval by the Board of Education, Department of Education staff will notify the Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools

that the provision of 8 VAC 20-131-150 related to the standard school day is waived for Blacksburg High School for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year.