

Final Arkansas Department of Education Rules and Regulations Four-day School Weeks

1.00 REGULATORY AUTHORITY

1.01 These regulations shall be known as Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Regulations governing four-day school weeks.

1.02 These regulations are enacted pursuant to the State Board of Education's authority under Act 1 147 of 1997.

2.00 PURPOSE

2.01 It is the purpose of these regulations to set guidelines for local school districts to initiate and maintain four-day school weeks.

3.00 DEFINITIONS

3.01 Average Daily Membership (ADM) - The total number of days attended plus the total number of days absent by students in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) during the first three quarters of the previous school, divided by the number of school days actually taught in the school district during that period of time rounded up to the nearest hundredth.

3.02 Official Reporting Period - For districts electing to operate on a four-day week basis, the official reporting period for attendance shall be quarterly with the actual number of days counted in each period to be not less than thirty-two (32) nor more than forty (40).

4.00 DISTRIBUTION OF STATE AID

4.01 When the distribution of state aid is based on the Average Daily Membership, that Average Daily Membership is to be calculated using the Official Reporting Period.

5.00 EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

5.01 Each local district must average six (6) hours of instruction per day and thirty (30) hours per week. This can be met with four (4) 7 ½ hour instructional days. Classes in grades 9-12 must meet the clock hour equivalency of one hundred twenty (120) clock hours for a Carnegie Unit.

5.02 Each local district will provide documentation to the ADE to determine the success of the educational program. Assessment measures will include the state approved norm-referenced test and other assessment instruments required by or approved by the ADE.

5.03 Each local district will conduct community forums to determine local support and provide for continual community input into the success and continuation of four-day school weeks.

5.04 Academic Distress districts that operate four-day school weeks who do not demonstrate yearly improvement on the state approved norm-referenced test and other assessment instruments required by or approved by the ADE will forfeit their right to this option.