

Protection of School Instructional Time

Board Policy: C-3
Adopted: July 6, 1992
Revised: September 13, 1999

I. General Policy Statement

The primary purpose of school is to provide instruction for students, and any infringement upon time designated for instructional activities is a failure to achieve that purpose. Therefore, time scheduled for classroom instruction is to be carefully protected from encroachment by other activities.

II. Regulations

- A. In compliance with State policies, the Haywood County Schools will provide a minimum of 1,000 hours of instructional time per year. Instructional time is that time during which students are assigned to a teacher for the primary purpose of instruction. Instruction is any activity that leads toward the mastery of specific educational goals as stated in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and/or local guides.
- B. Though definitely a part of school life, some activities, such as the following, are not to be considered part of instructional time: changing classes, homeroom, lunch, pep rallies, and school dances.
- C. The school day may include hours of instruction and instructional services between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 p.m., Monday through Friday of each week or portion of a week of the school calendar.
- D. Except in "emergency" situations, class time shall not be interrupted for announcements or other "housekeeping" business.
- E. Assemblies or other programs should be planned to assure that the quality of content justifies substitution for the replaced instructional activities and that there is variety in scheduling.
- F. Student absences and checkouts detract from the effectiveness of the instructional program. Principals and teachers shall make every effort to inform pupils and parents of the value and importance of regular school attendance and to limit absences and checking out to legitimate and necessary purposes.
- G. It shall be the duty of the principal and teachers to assure that student activities and assignments do not infringe upon time when students are scheduled for instructional periods with other teachers.