

Instructional Hours

GUIDANCE FOR 2020–2021 SCHOOL REENTRY



State statute provides the following requirements for instructional hours and the corresponding development of your academic calendar.

22-2-8.1. School year; length of school day; minimum

A. Except as otherwise provided in this section, regular students shall be in school-directed programs, exclusive of lunch, for a minimum of the following:

- (1) KINDERGARTEN, for half-day programs:** two and one-half hours per day or 450 hours per year or, **for full-day programs:** five and one-half hours per day or 990 hours per year;
- (2) GRADES ONE THROUGH SIX:** five and one-half hours per day or 990 hours per year; and
- (3) GRADES SEVEN THROUGH 12:** six hours per day or 1,080 hours per year.

The New Mexico Public Education Department's (NMPED's) options for reentry instructional models—full reentry, hybrid, and remote learning—all fall within the bounds of a school-directed program. Because of this, face-to-face instructional hours and remote instructional hours shall be considered equivalent during the public health emergency. Districts and schools should submit their calendar to fiscal programs as usual.

Please see the NMPED Reentry Guidance for the 2020–2021 school year for more information on each instructional model: [full reentry, hybrid, and remote](#).



Guiding Rules

- The NMPED will not be waiving instructional hours unless the public health conditions order requires NMPED to consider this. Students' right to an education given all safety considerations and precautions is paramount.
- Instructional hours should focus on accelerated learning. Please see [NMPED Guidance on Instructional Acceleration](#).
- Instructional hours in the remote setting shall include school-directed programs.

School-directed programs include the following suggestions—this list is not intended to be exclusive or exhaustive:

- One-to-one check-ins between teachers and students (for example, office hours);
- Targeted intervention, remediation, and tutoring; and
- Remote learning activities (with or without technology) such as the following examples:
 - ▶ Online learning (synchronous or asynchronous)
 - ▶ Reading assignments
 - ▶ Writing assignments
 - ▶ Math problems
 - ▶ Lab reports
 - ▶ Research Projects
 - ▶ Paper-based assignments and packets or other independent work
 - ▶ Project-based learning and place-based learning

Reentry Support Guidance

