

**Section 8-3.1. School Year defined; Elementary School; Unstructured recreational**

~~time. — A. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, Suffolk Public Schools shall be operated with students in attendance~~ The length of the school year is at least 180 teaching days or 990 teaching hours. The School Board offers in-person instruction to each student enrolled in an elementary or secondary school a minimum of 180 teaching days or in Suffolk Public Schools for at least 990 teaching hours (540 hours for kindergarten) per school year, except as otherwise permitted by Va. Code § 22.1-98.C.4 or Article 3 of Chapter 14 of Title 22.1 of the Code of Virginia. Days on which schools are closed because of inclement weather or emergencies, shall be are made up if necessary to meet the 180 teaching days requirement or 990 teaching hours.

B. ~~Students are provided a minimum of 680 hours of instructional time in elementary school, except for students in half-day kindergarten, school in the four academic disciplines of English, mathematics, science, and history and social science and a minimum of 375 hours of instructional time in half-day kindergarten in the four academic disciplines of English, mathematics, science, and history and social science.~~

C. Unstructured recreational time that is intended to develop teamwork, social skills, and overall physical fitness may be included in the calculation of total instructional time or teaching hours for elementary school, provided that such unstructured recreational time does not exceed 15 percent of total instructional time or teaching hours. (Adopted January 12, 1995; Revised June 14, 2001; Ordinance Number 00/01-09; Effective: July 1, 2001; Revised November 8, 2018; Ordinance Number 18/19-35; Effective: November 8, 2018)

**Legal Authority** - Virginia Code §§ 22.1-26, 22.1-98 & 22.1-79.1, 22.1-200.2 (1950), as amended.