



**What change has been made by the Legislature to the basic education requirement for minimum instructional hours in grades one through twelve?**

RCW 28A.150.220 (Basic education – Minimum instructional requirements) provides:

(2) Each school district shall make available to students the following minimum instructional offering each school year:

(a) For students enrolled in grades one through twelve, at least a district-wide annual average of one thousand hours, which shall be increased to at least one thousand eighty instructional hours for students enrolled in each of grades seven through twelve and at least one thousand instructional hours for students in each of grades one through six according to an implementation schedule adopted by the legislature, but not before the 2014-15 school year.”

[2011 1<sup>st</sup> sp. s. c 27 (ESSB 5919); 2009 c548 (SHB 2261)]

The 2013-15 budget act implements the requirement established in SHB 2261:

School districts shall implement the increased instructional hours for the instructional program of basic education required under the provisions of RCW 28A.150.220(2)(a) beginning with the 2014-15 school year, which enhancement is within the program of basic education.

[2013 2<sup>nd</sup> sp. s. c4 (3ESSB 5034), Sec. 502 (12)]

The BEA requirement for minimum instructional hours in grades 1-12 is thus revised as follows.

<b>Through 2013-14</b>	District-wide annual average 1,000 hours in grades 1-12
<b>Beginning 2014-15</b>	1,000 hours in each of grades 1-6 1,080 hours in each of grades 7-12

**What is the definition of instructional hours?**

“Instructional hours” is defined in RCW 28A.150.205 as follows:

"Instructional hours" means those hours students are provided the opportunity to engage in educational activity planned by and under the direction of school district staff, as directed by the administration and board of directors of the district, inclusive of intermissions for class changes, recess, and teacher/parent-guardian conferences that are planned and scheduled by the district for the purpose of discussing students' educational needs or progress, and exclusive of time actually spent for meals.

[1992 c 141 (SB 5953) § 502.]

**What are some of the questions have been asked about compliance with the new instructional hours requirement for basic education?**

- Does time scheduled before the first class and after the last class in a school day count in the calculation of instructional hours?
- Can before- and after-school instructional activities be counted toward the instructional hours requirement if they are open to all students?
- Is there a required (or standard) time that must be reduced from the calculation of instructional hours for lunch?
- How should instructional hours be counted in an elementary school when lunch and recess are scheduled in the same time block?
- If a school district has a 180-day waiver from the SBE for parent-teacher conferences, are the hours in the waiver days counted toward the instructional hours requirement?
- Are districts that have 180-day waivers in 2014-15 for professional development of staff required to meet the new instructional hours requirement?