

105 SCHOOL YEAR

Belief

The Maskwacis Education Schools Commission (MESC) follows cultural and traditional teachings of the Maskwacis Cree, in particular Wahkohtowin. Wahkohtowin is the belief that all things are related and connected, that all of existence has spirit and that living in a good way requires us to maintain good relationships with each other and other aspects of existence. We recognize that respect for mother earth, elders, youth, and the Treaties are paramount to planning ahead and making decisions for future generations.

The MESC believes that it is in the best interest of students to provide a school year that ensures consistency with standardized hours of instruction.

Procedures

1. The school year calendar defines the number of operational and instructional days, and instructional time per school year.
2. The school year calendar will ensure that the length of the school year does not exceed 1100 hours or 200 teaching days.
3. The school year calendar will ensure that the **minimum** hours of instruction are met;
 - 3.1. K-4 - ECS: 475 hours/year
 - 3.2. Gr 1 - Gr 9: 950 hours/year
 - 3.3. Gr 10 - Gr 12: 1000 hours/year
4. An Operational Day is any day staff are required to be on duty.
5. An Instructional Day and therefore instructional time includes time scheduled for purposes of instruction, examinations/testing and other student activities where direct student-teacher interaction and supervision are maintained.
6. The Instructional day and therefore instructional time does not include:
 - 6.1. Nehiyawatisiwin Kisikaw or “Teacher Convention” days
 - 6.2. professional development days
 - 6.3. parent-teacher interviews
 - 6.4. teacher planning/organizational days
 - 6.5. staff meetings
 - 6.6. statutory and school authority-declared holidays
 - 6.7. lunch breaks

- 6.8. recesses
 - 6.9. breaks between classes
 - 6.10. supervised study halls
 - 6.11. time taken for the registration of students
 - 6.12. extracurricular activities
 - 6.13. graduation/commencement rehearsals and ceremonies
7. The following principles will be used in the development of school year calendars:
- 7.1. Shall as a first priority meet student learning needs,
 - 7.2. Shall be consistent from year to year with predictable school opening, year-end and holiday dates,
 - 7.3. Where possible, any school week for students should contain a minimum of three days with the exception of school opening and closing where there may be only two instructional days,
 - 7.4. Where possible, the number of instructional days in quarters and semesters must be as close to equal as possible,
 - 7.5. Where possible, students should begin classes after Labor Day,
 - 7.6. Where possible the last instructional day in June should not extend the school year longer than necessary to meet instructional requirements.
 - 7.7. Where possible, a minimum of seven professional development days will be incorporated into the school year calendar and may be combined with other operational days to create a long weekend for students.
 - 7.8. Where possible, the Christmas break will be equivalent to two full weeks with at least two travel days prior to December 25th.
 - 7.9. Where possible, provide a one week spring break.
 - 7.10. Where possible, provide up to one week fall break
 - 7.11. A maximum of seven operational days may be allowed for organizational purposes, five in the fall and two at year end.
8. Consultation regarding the school year calendar shall occur with employees, Parent Advisory Committees (PAC), and partner organizations prior to January 31st.

Reference:

[Alberta Education Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12](#)