



# Flexibility to Define an Instructional Day

School districts in Illinois now have maximum flexibility to define instructional days based on students' needs.



## FUNDING ON ENROLLMENT

Public Act 100-0465, also known as the Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success Act (the "Act"), made sweeping changes to education funding in Illinois when it became law on August 31, 2017. The Act based state funding on student enrollment, rather than attendance. The Act sun-setted Section 18-8.05 of the School Code, which had defined a day of attendance as a minimum of five instructional hours. Funding schools on enrollment provides school districts the resources to support all students, especially students in need of support to increase students' attendance.



## DEFINING A SCHOOL DAY

Districts, school boards, and collective bargaining units can work together to define an instructional day, making decisions rooted in improving outcomes for all students.



## RETHINKING INSTRUCTION

Students learn in a variety of ways and settings. Districts may define student engagement and

student learning differently, such as through a combination of classroom instruction, online instruction, independent research projects, work-based learning, and internships. ISBE encourages districts to use the flexibility afforded in law to innovate new ways of teaching and learning that center on competencies and mastery of subject matter.



## STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

Students are in attendance when they are participating in learning – anywhere and anytime. Students are absent when they have not engaged in learning, as defined by the school district, on a given instructional day.



## CALENDAR REQUIREMENTS

All school calendars must include at least 176 instructional days. Districts with approved calendars for the 2018-19 school year do not need to modify their current calendars but should ensure they include at least 176 instructional days for next school year.

Email questions to [instructionalday@isbe.net](mailto:instructionalday@isbe.net), and view the full guidance sent on November 9, 2018, at the link below.

Visit

[tinyurl.com/ISBE-InstructionalDay](https://tinyurl.com/ISBE-InstructionalDay)





# ISBE on the Road

## Flexibility to Define an Instructional Day

ISBE is hitting the road! We have received a number of questions from the field regarding locally defining an instructional day. We are coming to you to answer your questions.

### DECEMBER 3

#### ROONEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4900 Columbus Rd.  
Quincy, IL  
4-6 p.m.

### DECEMBER 4

#### CARBONDALE HIGH SCHOOL

1301 E. Walnut St.  
Carbondale, IL  
4-6 p.m.

### DECEMBER 5

#### SILAS WILLARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

460 Fifer St.  
Galesburg, IL  
4-6 p.m.

### DECEMBER 6

#### DUPAGE COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

421 N. County Farm Rd.  
Wheaton, IL  
4-6 p.m.

### WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Join us at the following events  
to ask questions and share your  
successes and challenges in  
using instructional  
day flexibility.

### DECEMBER 10

#### WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY

1901 S. 9th St.  
Mattoon, IL  
4-6 p.m.

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