



NATCHITOCHE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

318.352.2358 | 310 Royal Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457

Good Afternoon,

Several of you probably have questions about the survey that was released today. When Hurricane Laura came through in late August/early September, we ended up having to postpone the start of school for 5 days. We have been waiting for a possible waiver but confirmed this week that we would in fact not be receiving a waiver. We were told those days would not be excused, so we will need to make up the instructional minutes missed during that time.

To determine how many minutes we need to make up, we multiplied the 5 days x 385 instructional minutes a day (Minimum for district) = 1,925 instructional minutes. We realize that we have 575 extra minutes built into our current calendar, but we also have 5 more months of school. Traditionally/historically, we have weather days during the month of January and February. The options were created by counting the number of instructional days remaining from Feb. 1, 2021 – June 3, 2021. We divided the total number of minutes / total number of days to see how much needed to be added to each day to meet the required 63,720 total instructional minutes for the year.

Not every school will have to add the entirety of the options. Some schools have an earlier start time and a later dismissal, and their instructional minutes per day are already more than 385.

- Example, a school with 410 minutes of instruction (do not count lunch, restroom, or recess) will not be affected by adding 25 minutes to the school day. $385 \text{ instructional minutes} + 25 \text{ extra instructional minutes} = 410 \text{ total instructional minutes per day}$. A school with this many instructional minutes will not have their daily schedule affected by Option C or Option B (but they will lose 3 days of breaks).

What you are doing by partaking in the survey is deciding the option you want, but how it will be applied to your school depends on how much time your school already has built into their schedule. Once the votes are calculated, if we have to add minutes to the day, we will need to look at each school individually to determine what this means for each school.

Options are:

A – Add 5 days to the end of the current calendar (students' last day becomes June 10th); everything else remains the same

B – Remove P/T Conference on January 29th (virtual P/T Conference throughout that week); Remove President's Day on Feb. 10th; and Remove Memorial Day on May 31st; Add 10 minutes to the day

C – Add 25 minutes to the day; everything else remains the same

I know this adds another wrinkle in our already unconventional year, but these are minutes set by state law and cannot be circumvented. We did not have to adhere to attendance policy last year because the state did grant waivers, unfortunately that is not the case this year. Once an option is chosen, we will work with each school to amend (if necessary) their schedule in the least disruptive manner possible.

Together We Can!

Sincerely,

Grant Eloi

Dr. Grant Eloi
Superintendent Natchitoches Parish Schools