

Defining an Instructional School Day SB 28 (Bertino-Tarrant-D) and HB 247 (Crespo-D)

SB 28 & HB 247 will re-establish the definition of instructional hours for kindergarten through 12 grade. A day of attendance would be to be no less than 5 clock hours of school. Once this provision is put back in statue it is the intent to begin discussions to introduce some flexibility into the schedule in an effort to do what's best for every student and school in Illinois.

Background: In the last General Assembly, a section of the school code was repealed that removed the definition of a full day of school. This was done in conjunction with the implementation of the Evidence Based Funding (EBF) legislation was passed in 2017. When the EBF discussions were held, stakeholders from all over the state were a part of the negotiations which helped craft the new funding mechanism. At no time was the number of weekly instructional hours part of those conversations, but somehow the language that guides those hours was cut from the Illinois school code. Districts are now being told by ISBE they have all sorts of freedom regarding their yearly calendars and weekly schedules. IEA has initiated this bill to re-establish the 5 clock hours and then discuss the flexibility of schedule that meet the needs of students and school districts.