

New Legislative Amendments (July 23, 2013)

Minimum Number of Annual Instructional Days – Effective August 1, 2013

The minimum number of hours and days of instruction that must be completed for grades 1–6 is 935 hours and 165 days and for grades 7–12 is 1,020 hours and 165 days, not including summer school. Kindergarten continues to be based solely on 425 hours for half-day students without a disability. All-day kindergarten must include at least 850 hours. School districts with commissioner-approved four-day week schedules are not affected by the instructional day minimum. See Minn. Stat. § 120A.41.

Early Admissions Policy for Kindergarten Students – Effective August 1, 2013

A school board early admissions policy for kindergarten students is required to describe the process and procedures for comprehensive evaluation in cognitive, social and emotional development domains to help determine the student's ability to meet kindergarten expectations and progress. The policy must be made available to parents in an accessible format and is subject to review by the Minnesota Department of Education. *Please contact us if you would like legal assistance in the creation or review of your policy.* See Minn. Stat. § 124D.02, subd. 1.

Employee Use of Accrued Sick Leave – Effective August 1, 2013

Employees may use sick leave for the illness or injury of an "adult child, spouse, sibling, parent, grandparent, or stepparent" for "reasonable" periods of time and "on the same terms upon which the employee is able to use sick leave benefits for the employee's own illness or injury." School districts may limit the use of personal sick leave benefits to "no less than 160 hours in any 12-month period" (does not apply to absences due to the illness or injury of a child). School districts should review their master agreements and sick leave policies to determine compliance. *Please contact us if you would like assistance in the review of your agreements and policies as well as advice on how to curb possible sick leave abuse.* See Minn. Stat. § 181.9413.

Nonrenewal of Head Coach Contracts – Effective Immediately

New language provides that "the existence of parent complaints must not be the sole reason for a school board not to renew a coaching contract." See Minn. Stat. § 122A.33.

*Data Regarding Athletic Directors and Chief Financial Officers –
Effective Immediately*

The amendment expanded the positions to which data regarding complaints, charges or an investigation may become public to include "athletic directors whose duties include at least 50 percent of their time spent in administration, personnel, supervision and evaluation; [and] chief financial officers." See Minn. Stat. § 13.43, subd. 2.

~ [Michelle D. Kenney](#)