

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1997

400A0206

HOUSE BILL NO. 1013

Introduced by: The Committee on Education at the request of the Department of Education
and Cultural Affairs

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to clarify that a local school board or governing body may
2 set the school term for kindergarten programs and to revise certain requirements regarding
3 the school term established by a local school board.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

5 Section 1. That § 13-26-2 be amended to read as follows:

6 13-26-2. The school board or governing body shall operate ~~the~~ grades one through twelve
7 in its schools for at least a nine-month regular term in any one school year. The regular school
8 term may be conducted on a year-round basis, but for grades one through twelve shall consist
9 of school actually in session for at least one hundred seventy-five days and shall begin on a date
10 established by the school board. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules pursuant
11 to chapter 1-26 governing the operation and scheduling of year-round schools. The rules may
12 allow deviations from the one hundred seventy-five day requirement in this section and from the
13 five and one-half hour per day requirement in § 13-26-1 if the total school term hours
14 requirement in § 13-26-2.1 is met. The local school board or governing body may establish the
15 school term for kindergarten programs. Any school board or governing body may release

1 graduating high school seniors from school before the end of the regular term if the release is for
2 no more than three days. Make up days for school closing because of weather, disease or
3 emergency need not exceed ten days. Graduating high school seniors are not required to make
4 up days missed because of weather, disease or emergency. If classes have been convened and
5 then are dismissed because of inclement weather, that day shall be counted as a day in session.

6 School boards are encouraged to provide days within the regular school term for curriculum
7 and staff development ~~shall be~~ in addition to the one hundred seventy-five days required in this
8 section. Each school board shall determine the appropriate number of days for this activity and
9 how best to use the time based on local needs for program development, increased parent
10 participation, student contact, teachers' preparation, or other needs of the schools in the district.
11 School shall be in session only when classes are held and as provided in §§ 13-26-4 and
12 13-26-4.1. A school board may operate a special term during the summer months.

13 Section 2. That § 13-26-2.1 be amended to read as follows:

14 13-26-2.1. Notwithstanding §§ 13-26-1 and 13-26-2, each local school board may establish
15 the length of a school day and the number of school days in a school week, provided the number
16 of school hours in a school term for grades ~~one~~ four through twelve may not be less than nine
17 hundred sixty-two and one-half hours, exclusive of intermission. A plan to establish a school
18 term pursuant to this section must first be approved by the South Dakota Board of Education.
19 The state board may adopt rules, pursuant to chapter 1-26, regulating the approval of local
20 district plans.