

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 948

S.P. 314

In Senate, February 3, 1999

An Act to Provide Professional Development for Implementing Learning Results.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MITCHELL of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative LOVETT of Scarborough and
Senators: BERUBE of Androscoggin, DAVIS of Piscataquis, KILKELLY of Lincoln,
KONTOS of Cumberland, Representatives: KANE of Saco, PLOWMAN of Hampden,
POWERS of Rockport.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4801, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1993, c. 349, §45, is further amended to read:

1. **Number.** A school administrative unit shall make provision for the maintenance of all of its schools for at least ~~180~~ 185 days a year. At least 175 days shall must be used for instruction. In meeting the requirement of a ~~180~~ 185-day school year, no more than ~~5~~ 10 days may be used for in-service education of teachers, administrative meetings, parent-teacher conferences, records' days and similar activities of which at least 5 days must be used for the in-service professional development of teachers necessary to ensure the coordination of school curriculum, instruction and assessment policies with the attainment of the student learning results standards.

A. The commissioner may reduce or waive the minimum number of days required on application from a school board. The application must be supported in writing with a statement of the reasons for the request.

B. Notwithstanding any other section of the statutes, school committees, with the approval of the commissioner, may adopt or amend rules necessary to implement an extended school year at the local level. The commissioner may make appropriate adjustments, not to exceed the allowable subsidy, to insure fair and equitable treatment in the distribution of state aid.

C. Notwithstanding this subsection, the commissioner shall promulgate a rule to provide that local school units may allow secondary school students to graduate up to 5 school days prior to the regular end of the school year.

D. A school administrative unit, operating under a plan approved by the commissioner, may provide for the use of up to 5 of the 175 instructional days required by this section to be used for screening incoming first year students for the purpose of identifying exceptional students and students at risk of school failure as required by state or federal law.

E. Notwithstanding this subsection and any other provision of law, for school years 1991-92 and 1992-93, a school administrative unit may reduce the number of days for the maintenance of all its schools by 5 days a year. A school administrative unit that decides to reduce the number of school days for school year 1991-92 or 1992-93, or both, shall notify the commissioner in writing of its plan.

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SUMMARY

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6 This bill provides 5 additional days of teacher in-service
8 training each school year to ensure coordination of school
policies for curriculum, instruction and assessment with the
attainment of the learning results standards.