

Action Item - 44

Board of Education Meeting Date: 6/26/2025

Title: Approval of Act 80 Exception - Instructional Time – Added 6.11.2025

Action Under Consideration:

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize The School District of Philadelphia, through the Superintendent or his designee, to submit to the Pennsylvania Department of Education a Request for Approval of Act 80 Exceptions based upon Section 1504 of the Public School Code (Act 80), permitting certain scheduled activities to count as pupil instructional time so that the District meets the requirement of at least 180 days of instruction or the required daily school hours, for the 2024-2025 school year.

Description:

The Pennsylvania School Code requires that elementary and secondary programs consist of 180 days of instruction or 900 hours at the elementary level or 990 hours at the secondary level. The Request for Section 1504 (Act 80) Exception Days provides the District with the flexibility to meet the 180 day instructional day requirement, avoiding basic education subsidy penalties, as long as a minimum of 900 elementary and 990 secondary instructional hours are provided. Should any schools fall below the required instructional hour minimum an adjustment in bell schedules or calendar may be necessary to avoid penalties. The District still must comply with the minimum hours prescribed by state law. Failure to authorize Act 80 days would jeopardize basic education subsidies if the number of instructional days fell below 180 due to unscheduled and/or unforeseen emergencies or inclement weather.

Office Originating Request:

Academic Services