

# BRAINTREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## IC/ICA - SCHOOL YEAR/SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar for the ensuing year will be prepared by the Superintendent in coordination with school administration and the Teachers' Association, and submitted to the School Committee for approval on, at minimum, an annual basis. The number of days or instructional hours scheduled for the school year will be determined in accordance with the following standards set by the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education:

1. Elementary school will operate for a minimum of 180 days. Schools shall ensure that every elementary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 900 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in regulation. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.
2. Secondary schools will operate for a minimum of 180 days. Schools shall ensure that every secondary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 990 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in regulation. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.

### **Structured Learning Options (SLO) to Meet Required Learning Time**

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) recognizes that school departments may have a need to provide alternative learning opportunities to meet state learning time requirements due to unique circumstances, such as excessive days lost to inclement weather, building emergencies, and other unforeseen circumstances. As such, local School Committees have the authority to approve programs that are designed to minimize student learning disrupted by such events by providing alternative learning activities for students that may be completed outside of the general school day.

The Braintree School Committee (BSC) provides the Superintendent the authority to implement the use of SLO after all five (5) scheduled snow days have been used in any given school year. These days shall meet the following criteria:

1. Activities & assignments will extend learning already taking place in class and will be structured, substantial, and sufficiently rigorous to justify the amount of time provided for completion;
2. Activities & assignments must include appropriate oversight and teacher involvement;
3. Activities & assignments will be broadly accessible for all students, and account for the widely varying circumstances in students' homes including parent support and access to technology;
4. Activities & assignments will have varied due dates to account for potential limited access to technology and/or resources during days off;

Under the direction of the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Principals will provide scheduled opportunities to support students during non-structured learning time during the school day. Such



opportunities shall not be scheduled during recess, or lunch.

The BSC may allow the Superintendent to use SLO under other circumstances on a case-by-case basis, subject to prior approval of the BSC.

Adopted by School Committee 10/1/2018

