The Hickory Public School board encourages all students to develop an understanding of citizenship, including the importance of a citizen’s rights and responsibilities. At a minimum, the citizenship curriculum will incorporate the civic literary requirements of the Basic Education Plan and any statutory requirements regarding the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the display of flags. In addition, within the timeframe established by state requirements, the high school curriculum will meet all state standards for teaching individual responsibility and other historical founding principles of our nation.

**Board Citizenship Requirements and Options**

The curriculum committee established in policy 3100, Curriculum Development, shall develop the curriculum regarding citizenship. In addition to meeting any state requirements, the citizenship curriculum also should be designed to reinforce the student behavior management plan. The curriculum shall include addressing character traits as provided in the Basic Education Plan. The character traits should include, but are not limited to, courage, good judgment, integrity, civility, kindness, perseverance, responsibility, tolerance, self-discipline, respect for school personnel, responsibility for school safety, service to others, and good citizenship.

The citizenship curriculum must require that: (1) the United States and North Carolina flags be displayed in each classroom, when available; (2) recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance be scheduled on a daily basis; (3) appropriate instruction be provided on the meaning and historical origins of the North Carolina and United States flags and the Pledge of Allegiance; (4) Constitution and Citizenship Day be observed on September 17 to commemorate the signing of the United States Constitution or be observed the preceding or following week if students are not in school on September 17; and (5) appropriate instruction and/or recognition be provided concerning the significance of Memorial Day.

The citizenship curriculum also may include appropriate instruction on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and guidelines for the use and display of the North Carolina and United States flags. The curriculum must ensure that no student will be compelled to salute the flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance, stand to acknowledge the flag or stand to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance, or otherwise feel coerced to participate. In addition, the citizenship curriculum may encourage teachers to use the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance as an opportunity to teach students about the history concerning coercion and the importance of the First Amendment to the Bill of Rights. Any North Carolina or United States flags donated or otherwise made available must be displayed in the classrooms.

Furthermore, the citizenship curriculum may include for middle school and high school students a community volunteer service requirement in order to demonstrate the value and effectiveness of volunteer contributions to the community. To be approved by the Hickory Public School board, the curriculum (1) must provide students with sufficient notice of the service requirement; (2) must provide students with enough options to meet the interests and transportation needs of the students; and (3) must not infringe on the constitutional rights of students by compelling or
coercing a student to hold a particular viewpoint on volunteerism.

Legal References: 36 U.S.C. 106(d); G.S. 115C-12(33), -47(29a), -81(g), (h), (h1); N.C. Session Law 2011-273

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Curriculum Development (policy 3100)

Adopted:

Revised: November 9, 2016
File: AEA School Calendar And Time For Learning

The Board of Education of the Hickory Public Schools believes that the school day and school year should be planned in a manner to facilitate student learning and to permit an accurate assessment of student achievement in scheduled testing periods.

Interruptions of instructional time and time off task must be kept to a minimum. The principal is responsible for ensuring that instructional time is maintained and protected in the school schedule. Each teacher is responsible for ensuring optimal use of instructional time in his or her classes.

The length of the school day may vary from school to school if approved by the Board. The “instructional” day includes only those hours a student is assigned to a teacher for the primary purpose of instruction. Breaks in the instructional day for changing classes, homeroom, lunch, pep rallies and similar non-instructional activities are not part of the instructional day and may not be counted towards the minimum instructional hours requirement.

The school calendar in all schools will be for 215 days and will provide a minimum of 185 days or 1025 hours of instruction covering at least nine months. As funding permits, the board may seek increasing the number of instructional hours or days, at least for those students who need more time to learn the curriculum.

Any calendar adopted by the Board will be consistent with the following requirements:

1. Except for year-round schools or schools operating under a modified calendar, the opening date for students will be no earlier than the Monday closest to August 25, and the closing date for students will be no later than the Friday closest to June 11. When allowed by law, the Board may seek a waiver of the opening and/or closing dates from the State Board of Education.

2. At least ten (10) of the days on the calendar will be designated as annual vacation leave (AL) days.

3. The calendar will include the same or an equivalent number of legal holidays as those designated as holidays by the State Personnel Commission for State employees.
including Veteran’s Day if it falls on a weekday.

4. School will not be scheduled on Sundays.

5. The total number of workdays for teachers employed for a 10-month term will not exceed 195 days and those 195 days will be scheduled as follows:

   a. The calendar will designate instructional days when students must be present. These will be designated as “instructional” teacher workdays.

   b. The remaining days will be “flexible” days and may be used for teacher workdays, additional instructional days, or other lawful purposes.

   c. Of the “flexible” days, the Board will designate at least two (2) days as days on which teachers may take accumulated annual vacation leave.

   d. The Board may use any of the “flexible” days as make-up days for instructional days missed due to school closings because of inclement weather or other reasons.

6. If the school calendar requires students to attend on Memorial Day, each principal shall ensure that the significance of Memorial Day is recognized in the school on that day. If students are not scheduled to attend school on Memorial Day, recognition of the significance of Memorial Day will be provided at another time as part of the citizenship curriculum.

7. If the school calendar requires students to attend school on September 17, which is Constitution and Citizenship Day, each principal shall ensure that the signing of the United States Constitution is commemorated in the school on that day. If students are not in attendance on September 17, each principal shall ensure that Constitution and Citizenship Day is commemorated during the preceding or following week.

The Board will review recommendations from the superintendent, who will obtain suggestions from teachers and other personnel as well as from parents in developing the school calendar.

Legal References: 36 U.S.C. 106(d); G.S. 115C-12(33), -36, -47, -84.2, -105.21(b)(2), -238.31, -288; State Board of Education Policy Manual, policy GCS-G-001

Adopted: August 16, 1982

Revised: November 18, 1985; August 28, 2000; December 5, 2011; November 19, 2012