

Full-Time Equivalency of Public School Students

*General Statute 115C-419
SL2021-180 Section 7.17*

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The Law G.S.115C-419 as amended by SL2021-180 Sect. 7.17(a)

The State Board of Education shall establish a formula for determining the full-time equivalency (FTE) of a student enrolled in a public school unit of the State for the purposes of providing State funds on a per pupil basis.

The formula shall include the amount of instructional time required for a school day for a full-time student.

Current Student Accounting

Average Daily Membership

The sum of the number of days in membership for all non-violating students in individual PSU, divided by the numbers of days in the school month.

A student is in membership for one day if they are scheduled for at least half the instructional day.

A student scheduled for less than one half of the instructional day is not included in membership.

FTE Formula

Formula Basics

- Authoritative data source
- Denominator
- Numerator
 - Based on Instructional Time
- Point(s) in Time
- By Student/Grade
- By Course (to meet reporting requirements)
- Must be consistent from year to year and be calculated in a timely basis

Authoritative Data Source

The authoritative source will be the Student Information System (SIS) which is currently on the PowerSchool platform.

Denominator 300 Minutes

Grounded to the general statute governing school calendar requiring a minimum of 185 days OR 1,025 instructional hours

1,025 hours divided by 185 days = 5.5 hours

Given variances of schools and to allow flexibility for student needs recommend 5 hours

5 hours = 300 minutes for the denominator

Numerator: Scheduled Instructional Time

Includes all time a student is receiving instruction. Does not include other supervised time such as:

- Changing classes, homeroom, lunch, pep rallies, and school dances⁽¹⁾.
- This is consistent with the current average daily membership and consistent with the recommendation for the denominator

(1) Per SBE School Attendance and Student Accounting Manual

Recommended Point in Time

- Recommend October 1st and April 1st
 - Allows time for the schedules to be finalized for each semester
 - Aligns with other headcount data for special populations

Formula Summary

FTE =

Total Student Instructional Minutes
divided by 300 minutes

1 FTE = 300 student instructional minutes

Individual student may not exceed 1.0 FTE

Next Steps

Annual Report – October 15

DPI shall report on the number of students and the full-time equivalency of those students by public school unit and grade level from the prior school year.

Disaggregated by enrollment in courses offered

- by the PSU
- through other dual enrollment and joint programs
 - NCVPS
 - institutions of higher education
 - nonpublic schools.



North Carolina Department of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION