

What Does 875 Hours Look Like?



Wisconsin's reasonable and effective homeschool law requires private schools, including home-based private educational programs, to provide **"at least 875 hours of instruction each school year."** (WI Stat. 118.165(1)(c)) Public schools, by contrast and just for reference, must provide 437 hours of kindergarten instruction, 1,050 hours of instruction for students in 1st through 6th grades, and 1,137 hours of instruction to 7th through 12th grade students.

But what does 875 hours actually look like? Here are just a few examples of how those required hours could be broken down during your chosen 12-month homeschool year:

12 months	=	72.92 hrs/month	
9 months	=	97.22 hrs/mo	
52 weeks	=	16.83 hrs/week	
40 weeks	=	21.875 hrs/wk	
365 days	=	2.4 hrs/day	
5 days/wk year round		260 days	= 3.37 hrs/day
5 days/wk for 9 mos (Public school calendar)		180 days	= 4.86 hrs/day
5 days/wk for 6 mos		130 days	= 6.73 hrs/day
4 days/wk year round		208 days	= 4.21 hrs/day
4 days/wk for 9 mos		144 days	= 6.08 hrs/day
3 days/wk year round		156 days	= 5.61 hrs/day
2 days/wk year round		104 days	= 8.41 hrs/day

These examples aren't meant to suggest that you need to schedule your homeschool time at this level of detail - they're simply meant to help you visualize how you're meeting the required 875 hours with what you're currently doing in your homeschool.

The way you schedule your homeschool year depends solely on your family. As the administrator of your homeschool, you have full legal standing and complete parental control. Maybe your work schedule means homeschool hours happen in the evenings and on weekends. Maybe child activities keep you on the road for weeks at a time, and homeschool hours fit better in large concentrated blocks. Or maybe you see the world as your classroom and homeschool hours happen whenever and wherever you and your children are learning together. Whatever your 875 required hours look like, WHPA recommends you keep an attendance record for your homeschool where you document the number of hours spent in parent-administered instruction to the children of your one family unit.

As far as what constitutes a homeschool year, as the administrator of your homeschool, you determine your homeschool's start and end dates. You have 12 months to fulfill your required homeschool hours. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) *public school district fiscal year* runs from July 1 to June 30. Again, this is just for reference.

Wisconsin Compulsory Attendance law states that all children ages 6-18 must be enrolled in and attending an educational program. WHPA recommends using an attendance record to keep track of your homeschooling hours.

You have the right and freedom to provide an education to your children according to your own principles and beliefs, on a schedule that works for your family. WHPA is dedicated to protecting that right and freedom for all Wisconsin families.