

Self-Contained Classroom Guide

Districts may use this guidance when assigning teachers with a "[Self-contained](#)" designation in their endorsements.

Michigan districts provide 180 days of instruction, with a minimum of 1,098 instructional hours. The [Pupil Accounting Manual](#) (PAM) can be used to identify hours or minutes from the teacher's assignment that qualify as instructional time.

Instructional time **would** typically include:

- pupils and certified teachers are present and engaged in instruction
- instruction is scheduled and available to all pupils
- classes that are offered for credit or grade progression

Instructional time typically **would not** include:

- passing time to first period and from last period
- lunch period
- time passing from and to busses

"Self-contained classroom" means a classroom in which **one teacher** provides instruction to the same pupils for the **majority** of the **instructional** day. A majority of the day is defined as a number equaling more than half of a total; more than 50%.

Courses not meeting the meaning of "Self-contained" are considered departmentalized. A teacher of a departmentalized course must hold the appropriate endorsement for the content and grade-level of instruction or be placed under a proper [permit](#).

Example Scenario:

The instructional day begins at 8:30 AM and concludes at 3:15 PM for a total of six hours and 45 minutes. Allotting for a 45 minute lunch period, the instructional time is six hours, or 360 minutes. To be considered a self-contained classroom, a teacher must instruct the same students for a minimum of 181 minutes during the day.

For instance: Ms. Clark teaches the same students language arts, science, social studies every day for 181 minutes (8:30 - 11:31). Students then have a lunch period (11:32 - 12:17) followed by 179 minutes of instruction by different teachers in Mathematics and two electives.