

Request for S.C. Legislature's Waiver of Days Missed Due to Hurricane Florence and Flooding

Policy Reference: *District Policies: Emergency Closings, Delays, and Early Dismissals* (Page 232); and S.C. Code of Laws §59-1-425

Background Information:

On May 7, 2015, Governor Haley signed a law that changed the way South Carolina public schools address days missed from school due to extreme weather conditions. The law requires school districts to utilize the three days that must be built into the annual academic calendar according to state statute. If those dates are not viable make-up dates, other dates need to be established. Once the three days have been made up, the local board may waive up to three days. If additional days are missed, the State Board of Education may waive up to three additional days. Absences beyond 9 days due to inclement weather require legislative approval for waiver.

In preparation for Hurricane Florence, Governor McMaster issued mandatory school closing orders for September 11, 2018, through September 14, 2018. Hurricane Florence and the subsequent flooding was devastating to Horry County, requiring schools to be closed a total of 15 days – September 11, 2018, through October 1, 2018. Additionally, schools were closed for one day (October 11th) in anticipation of Tropical Storm Michael.

For the 2018-19 academic year, Horry County Schools designated the following three dates as possible make-up days for students: October 8, 2018, January 18, 2019, and February 18, 2019. In an effort to make up as many lost instructional days as possible, additional days were added to those already scheduled. This allowed students to make up seven instructional days.

Purpose:

The administration received a waiver from the Horry County Board of Education for three days missed due to Hurricane Florence and the subsequent flooding (September 11, 12, and 13, 2018), since three days had already been made up (October 8th, November 21st, and December 19th). In addition, the administration received a waiver from the State Board of Education for three days (September 14, 17, and 18, 2018). Administration is asking the Board to request a waiver of the remaining three days (September 19, 20, and 21, 2018) from the South Carolina Legislature.

For additional information: Contact Daryl Brown at 843-488-6774

Recommended Action:

Pursuant to S.C. Code of Laws §59-1-425, as a result of instructional days missed due to Hurricane Florence, the subsequent flooding, and Tropical Storm Michael, move that the Board request a waiver of the remaining missed instructional days (September 19, 20, and 21, 2018) from the South Carolina Legislature.

Estimated Cost: N/A