

Waiver of Missed Days 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 make up three days by using the three days that must be built into the school-year 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.

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 in the first semester, the following schedule was implemented which will make up 7 days:

Monday, October 8, 2018 (already a scheduled make-up day)
Wednesday, November 21, 2018
Wednesday, December 19, 2018
Thursday, December 20, 2018
Wednesday, January 2, 2019
Friday, January 18, 2019 (already a scheduled make-up day)
Monday, February 18, 2019 (already a scheduled make-up day)

Purpose:

The administration is requesting a waiver from the Board for three days missed due to Hurricane Florence and the subsequent flooding (September 11, 12, and 13, 2018), as three days have already been made up (October 8th, November 21st, and December 19th). In addition, the administration is requesting the Board to ask for a waiver from the State Board of Education for three days (September 14, 17, and 18, 2018).

For additional information:

Daryl Brown, Chief Officer for Support Services, 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 and the subsequent flooding, the administration requests that the Board grant a waiver for three days (September 11, 12, and 13, 2018) and requests the Board to seek a waiver from the State Board of Education for three days (September 14, 17, and 18, 2018).