

Hurricane Matthew Waiver of Missed Days

Policy Reference:

District Policies: “Emergency Closings, Delays, and Early Dismissals,” p. 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 nine days due to inclement weather require legislative approval for waiver.

In preparation for Hurricane Matthew, Governor Haley issued mandatory school closing orders for October 5 – October 7, 2016. Hurricane Matthew brought devastating results to our community which also made it necessary for all schools to be closed Tuesday – Friday, October 11 – 14, 2016. Additionally, schools in the Green Sea-Floyds area were closed on Monday, October 17, 2016. (All schools were closed a total of seven days, with Green Sea-Floyds schools missing one additional day.)

For the 2016-17 academic year, Horry County Schools had designated the following three dates as possible make-up days for students: October 10, 2016; February 20, 2017; and April 17, 2017. Due to the timing of the storm, Horry County Schools was unable to utilize its first designated make-up day, October 10, 2016. In addition, the two designated possible make-up days that remain are in the spring semester. Alternate make-up days were established and utilized as follows: November 23, 2016; January 2, 2017; January 13, 2017.

Purpose:

To seek a waiver from the Board for three days missed due to Hurricane Matthew, as three instructional days have already been made up (November 23rd, January 2nd, and January 13th), and ask the Board to request a waiver from the State Board of Education for Day 7 for all schools and in addition a waiver for Day 8 for the Green Sea-Floyds area schools.

For Further Information:

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Recommended Action:

Pursuant to S.C. Code of Laws §59-1-425, as a result of instructional days missed due to Hurricane Matthew, the administration requests that the Board grant a waiver for Days 4, 5, and 6 and requests the Board to seek a waiver from the State Board of Education for Day 7 for all schools, and Days 7 and 8 for schools in the Green Sea-Floyds attendance area.