

Administrative Memo

Date: March 5, 2014
To: School Administrators
From: Ron Lankford, Deputy Commissioner
Subject: FAS-14-003 - Inclement Weather re: School Calendar Requirements

This school year, many school districts throughout the state have missed a large number of days as a result of inclement weather. Districts must comply with Section 163.021.1, RSMo, which requires compliance with the minimum term, including a minimum number of days and hours, to be eligible for state aid. Additionally, Section 171.033.4, RSMo, provides forgiveness for inclement weather days after a specified number of inclement weather days have been reached by a school district or charter school.

Per 171.033.4, RSMo:

“In the 2009-2010 school year and subsequent years, a school district may be exempt from the requirement to make up days of school lost or canceled due to inclement weather in the school district when the school district has made up the six days required under subsection 2 of this section and half of the number of additional lost or canceled days up to eight days, resulting in no more than ten total make-up days required by this section.”

For example, if a district has missed eight (8) days due to inclement weather the district would be required to make up the first six (6) days, the district would also be required to make up the seventh (7th) day but the eighth (8th) day would be forgiven.

If a district missed less than six (6) days the district would be required to make up all missed days.

“Inclement weather”, for purposes of this section, shall be defined as ice, snow, extreme cold, flooding, or a tornado, but such term shall not include excessive heat.

This rule applies to districts with calendars of 174 days or more, as well as, to those districts with calendars less than 174 days (per Section 171.029, RSMo). Days that are missed for reasons other than inclement weather, such as illness, have to be made up and are not included in this provision of law.

Reminder: Days that are forgiven due to inclement weather will not have an adverse impact on the average daily attendance (ADA) calculation. This will create a situation which will have an effect on both components (both the total attendance hours and the hours in session) of the ADA calculation and, therefore, will not have a negative impact on the ADA.

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Detailed guidance and frequently asked questions pertaining to inclement weather is available on the School Finance website at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divadm/finance/topicsandprocedures/documents/sf-InclementWeather.pdf>

Charts are included in this documentation which will assist districts when determining how many weather days are required to be made up based on the number of inclement weather days the district missed during the year.

District specific questions regarding inclement weather and school calendar requirements should be directed to the School Finance Section at 573-751-0357.