Inclement Weather

Missouri
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY
EDUCATION™

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. Below is specific information regarding minimum day length, minimum hours of attendance, inclement weather forgiveness day information and a short FAQ regarding inclement weather.

Minimum Hours Required in a School Day

Severe weather increases the possibility of an early release from school. Section 160.041.1, RSMo, states that a minimum school day consists of at least 3 hours (except districts establishing less than a 174 day school calendar which require 4 hours) in which the pupils are under the guidance and direction of teachers in the teaching process. Districts must meet both the minimum day requirement and the minimum hour requirement as dictated by their respective calendar.

Minimum required hours of class time to count as a school day:

- School districts that provide a minimum term of at least 174 days and 1,044 hours of instruction must have at least three hours of class time to count day as an attendance day for calendar purposes.

- School districts that provide a minimum term of less than 174 days, and with a minimum of 1,044 hours, must have at least four hours of class time to count day as an attendance day for calendar purposes.

A school day ending before the minimum required hours of class time does not count toward the day requirement and the hours do not count toward the 1,044 hour requirement. Since the day is not a legal school day, the hours and day do not count for state aid purposes. Such hours are not reported as a part of the school district's calendar and the attendance hours are not reported in the June MOSIS Enrollment and Attendance file submission for the ADA calculation for state aid purposes.

Missed School Days

Some school districts may have missed days this school year due to inclement weather. 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."

"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 that plan to attend 174 days or more as well as to those districts that plan to attend less than 174 days (per Section 171.029, RSMo). <u>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.</u>

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.

The following two charts illustrate the make-up requirements associated with this statute.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14	+
M	M	M	M	M	M	M	**F**	M	**F**	M	**F**	M	**F**	**F**

Key:
M = Day must be made up
F = Day is forgiven

Days Missed	Days to Make Up
1 Day	1
2 Days	2
3 Days	3
4 Days	4
5 Days	5
6 Days	6
7 Days	7
8 Days	7
9 Days	8
10 Days	8
11 Days	9
12 Days	9
13 Days	10
14 Days	10
More than 14	10

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Can inclement weather days be made up by adding minutes/hours to the end of some or all of the remaining school days?**
   No, there is not a provision in the law to make up inclement weather days by adding minutes/hours to the end of the school day.

2. **Does the inclement weather forgiveness apply to districts that are attending less than 174 days?**
   Yes, the inclement weather forgiveness applies to all districts regardless of the planned days of school for the year. All districts are required to follow the guidelines for missed school days described above.

3. **What happens if a district doesn't make up the appropriate days and hours?**
   Districts that don't make up the appropriate days and hours will be required to use days at the beginning of the following school year to satisfy the requirements of statute pertaining to inclement weather. If this occurs the district will be required to meet all minimum day and hour requirements for the following year as well.

4. **What are considered to be inclement weather days that can be forgiven?**
   Per 177.033, RSMo, "Inclement weather" shall be defined as ice, snow, extreme cold, flooding, or a tornado, but such term shall not include excessive heat. Other circumstances, such as, water main breaks and power outages are not considered inclement weather and should be made up independently.

5. **Can a district make up an inclement weather day with a partial day of school instead of a full day of school?**
   A district is able to make up an inclement weather day with a partial day of school instead of a full day of school. When doing so the district will need to follow the criteria for minimum hours required in a school day provided above. The district will also need to be conscientious of the minimum hours required in a school year and if making up a full day with a partial day would cause the district to fall below the 1,044 hour requirement it would not be an option for the school and a full make up day of school would be required.

6. **How is funding affected if a district is forgiven a day due to inclement weather?**
   As mentioned above, 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. Since the ADA is not affected there also isn't a decrease in funding associated with the forgiven inclement weather days.

7. **How should the days forgiven be reported on the calendar entered on Core Data Screen 10?**
   All weather days, those required to be made up as well as those forgiven should be reported as a weather day on the actual calendar on Core Data Screen 10. The School Finance staff will review the actual calendar provided on Core Data Screen 10 to verify that the district has made up the appropriate days and hours based on the days and hours provided on the planned calendar and the weather days and weather make up days provided on the actual calendar.

8. **How should it be reported if the district has scheduled to make up an inclement weather day and the make-up day cannot be attended due to inclement weather?**
   If a district is unable to attend a make-up day the day is reported as a not in session day. The day is not reported as a weather day since the district was using the day to make up an actual weather day. Note, since the district was unable to be in session on this day the district will still need to make up the original inclement weather day.

9. **If a make-up day has been scheduled and the make-up day cannot be attended due to inclement weather will that day need to be made up?**
   Since the make-up day was not originally planned to be a day in session, the day will continue to be reported as a not in session day. The day is not considered a weather day, thus there will not be an additional day that will need to be made up due to missing the make-up day. Note, since the district was unable to be in session on this day the district will still need to make up the original inclement weather day.