

## School Closings/Weather Days Frequently Asked Questions

**Why are weather days being talked about so much lately?** The SC General Assembly has amended S.C. Code of Laws §59-1-425 (HB 3890) as it relates to school closings due to snow, extreme weather conditions, or other disruptions.

**Which days can be used as make-up days for school closings?** Each district/school should have three days already in the annual academic calendar to be used as make-up days.

**What if my school was closed 4 days due to the recent flooding?** The first three missed school days must be made up. The 4<sup>th</sup> day can either be waived by the local school board, made up by lengthening the school by no less than one hour, or by having school convene on a Saturday.

**Must a school make up all days missed due to snow, extreme weather conditions or other disruptions?** No. The first three missed school days must be made up. Days 4-6 may be waived by the local school board (with a majority vote) or the school day may be lengthened by no less than one hour or by having Saturday school. Days 7-9 may be brought to the State Board of Education to have the days waived. Day 10 and beyond must be taken to the General Assembly.

**How do I waive days 4-6?** The local school board of trustees must agree, with a majority vote, to waive missed days 4-6.

**How do I waive days 7-9?** The local Superintendent, with agreement from the local school board of trustees, must submit a waiver request to the State Board of Education. The request should be emailed to Darlene Prevatt at [dprevatt@ed.sc.gov](mailto:dprevatt@ed.sc.gov) or to Nicole Ivery at [nivery@ed.sc.gov](mailto:nivery@ed.sc.gov).

**How do I waive days 10 and beyond?** Contact your state representative.

**I want my students to make up all missed school days, not just the 3 in the calendar. We have a scheduled fall break. Can I use those days as make-up days, too?** Yes. The local school board of trustees must have an open public hearing and then notify the public that previously scheduled school closings will be used as make-up days.

**I have scheduled half-days in my calendar. Can I use them as make-up days?** No. Half days are already counted as part of the 180 required days. You must make-up three school days that were not originally identified as a school day.

**All three of my make-up days are in the spring semester, can I change the dates to the fall semester instead?** Yes, but only if the local board of trustees changes the calendar to reflect the new make-up dates prior to using them as make-up days.

**When do I submit my weather days report to the SCDE?** You may submit the report with all school closings at one time or periodically as school closings occur.

**My make-up days are in the spring. Do I need to wait until the days are made up before I submit the online weather form?** No. You do not have to wait to submit the weather form.

**How do I report my school closings?** Use this link to access the form:  
[https://scde.formstack.com/forms/district\\_contact](https://scde.formstack.com/forms/district_contact)

**Notwithstanding make-up days and waivers, will the school closings affect seat time requirements?**

No. The law (§59-1-425) trumps the seat time requirements so student attendance will not be jeopardized due to school closings.

**What is the deadline to have the weather form completed?** All forms must be completed and submitted to SCDE by April 15<sup>th</sup>. If there are no school closings, send an email to Darlene Prevatt no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Do charter schools have to make-up school closing days?** The SC Code of Laws requires 180 days of instruction. If school closings cause the instructional time to decrease below 180 days, then three days must be made up.

**Where can I get a copy of the SCDE memo that went out?** A copy of the memo is on the Office of Federal and State Accountability's web page at the following url:

<http://ed.sc.gov/newsroom/school-district-memoranda-archive/>

**Which schools are required to submit a weather report?** Every school and district must submit a weather report or, if applicable, a statement indicating there were no unscheduled school closings to the SCDE.

**What if I have no school closings due to snow, weather, or other extreme conditions?** Send an email to Darlene Prevatt at [dprevatt@ed.sc.gov](mailto:dprevatt@ed.sc.gov) indicating you have unscheduled school closings. You do not need to complete the weather report.

**Can I just send Darlene an email with my school closing dates?** No. If there are days of school missed due to snow, extreme weather conditions, or other disruptions, you must complete the weather report.

**What will the SCDE do with the information gathered from the weather reports?** The law requires the SCDE to report all school closings to the General Assembly no later than July 1 of each year.

**Are we doing this because of the recent floods?** No. The recently amended Code of Laws requires schools and districts to report this data to the SCDE each year.

**Who do I contact if I still have questions?** Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, Office of Federal and State Accountability, (803) 734-3477, [dprevatt@ed.sc.gov](mailto:dprevatt@ed.sc.gov); Nicole Ivery, Education Associate, Office of Federal and State Accountability, (803) 734-6268, [nivery@ed.sc.gov](mailto:nivery@ed.sc.gov); or Roy Stehle, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability, (803) 734-8118, [rstehle@ed.sc.gov](mailto:rstehle@ed.sc.gov).