

## 2019 Legislative Session

Week 13 - April 1, 2019

### Governor Walz Signs Snow Days Bill

The conference committee report for [SF 1743](#) (snow day relief bill) passed both bodies and Governor Walz signed it into law this afternoon. The new law allows districts to count days missed because of snow as instructional days. If districts take advantage of the new law, certain requirements must be met.

- The board of a school district or charter school that canceled school on one or more days during the 2018-2019 school year due to health and safety concerns *may* count those days as instructional days for purposes of calculating the number of hours and days in the school year.
- If a school district *would not* have met the required minimum number of days and hours of instruction for students, it must report to the commissioner of education the number of days and hours that the district counted to meet the required days and hours of instruction. A district is also *encouraged* to adopt an e-learning plan.
- If a school board resolves to count a day that school was canceled as an instructional day, the school district must compensate employees and contract employers *or* allow the day to be made up on a designated day.
- The minimum number of days of teacher service that a probationary teacher must complete equals the difference between 120 days and the number of scheduled instructional days that were canceled due to health and safety concerns and that the school board resolved to count as days of instruction.

Following is the state statute regarding Length of School Year - Hours of Instruction:

#### **120A.41 LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR; HOURS OF INSTRUCTION.**

**(a) A school board's annual school calendar must include at least 425 hours of instruction for a kindergarten student without a disability, 935 hours of instruction for a student in grades 1 through 6, and 1,020 hours of instruction for a student in grades 7 through 12, not including summer school. The school calendar for all-day kindergarten must include at least 850 hours of instruction for the school year. The school calendar for a prekindergarten student under section [124D.151](#), if offered by the district, must include at least 350 hours of instruction for the school year. A school board's annual calendar must include at least 165 days of instruction for a student in grades 1 through 11 unless a four-day week schedule has been approved by the commissioner under section [124D.126](#).**

**(b) A school board's annual school calendar may include plans for up to five days of instruction provided through online instruction due to inclement weather. The inclement weather plans must be developed according to section [120A.414](#).**

You will note that there is a number of hours requirement **AND** a number of minimum days requirement. In order to be in compliance with the statute, a district must meet **BOTH** requirements. As a result of the inclement weather this year, your district might be short on hours or days. Many of you have already made adjustments to your calendars. Some of you were waiting to see if the state would provide any relief.