

CONSENT AGENDA — ITEM FOR ACTION**INSTRUCTIONAL TIME WEATHER WAIVER****SUMMARY**

A severe ice storm in January 2024 caused many Oregon school districts to close schools for multiple days for the safety of students and staff. The state will allow districts to request to waive up to 14 hours due to severe inclement weather in the calculation of required instructional time. Board approval is required for the district to request a waiver.

BACKGROUND

The severe ice storm in January 2024 made roads unnavigable, caused power outages, and damaged school facilities. BSD and many school districts across the state had to close schools for multiple days for the safety of students and staff.

Due to the widespread impacts the severe storm caused for schools across the state, the Oregon State Board of Education has approved allowing districts to waive up to 14 hours of instructional time for weather-related closures during the 2023–24 school year. The state adopted a temporary rule in OAR 581-002-0035 Waivers and Permissions that states: "For the 2023-24 school year, a school district or public charter school may request permission to include in its calculation of instructional time required by OAR 581-022-2320 up to 14 hours for missed instructional time due to emergency school closures for adverse weather conditions and facilities failure. The request must be made in writing to the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction. The request must include a statement that the request is made with the approval of the school district's or charter school's governing school board and must include relevant information explaining why the district or charter school needs the permission."

Beaverton School District was closed on three student days and dismissed students early one day due to the severe weather incident. This resulted in a loss of 3.5 days of instructional time, more than the 14 hours allowed to be waived. With an approved 14-hour waiver, the district does not plan to extend the school year due to the ice storm-related closures in January.

RECOMMENDATION

The superintendent recommends the board authorize the district to apply for a 14-hour waiver of instructional time due to the ice storm.

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