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**TO:** ND School Administrators

**FROM:** Dr. Sherry Houdek, Director for Teacher & School Effectiveness

**DATE:** May 21, 2015

**RE:** School calendar legislation

Questions have developed from the recent legislative actions regarding the calendar. Below are the statutes that will guide our school calendar days for the 2015-2017 school years.

**SB 2031: Section 13 amends and reenacts NDCC 15.1-27-23** related to school closures due to weather or other emergencies: The section requires that:

1. The board of each school district shall include in the school calendar days that may be used for the rescheduling of instructional time lost as a result of severe weather or emergency related conditions.
2. a. The number of days required under subsection 1 must equal the average number of days per school year, as calculated using the five previous school years, during which the school district remained closed or provided less than a full day of instruction because of severe weather or other emergency conditions.  
b. The number of days determined under subdivision 'a' may be included within the calendar no earlier than the month of January.

**EXAMPLE:** Using the five previous school years, if a school district's number of school closure days equals 10 days, divide by 5 (five years) then the average equals 2 school calendar days for rescheduling of instructional time, which then must be included in your district calendar. School districts should continue to identify at least two minimum days for school closure. If your district's five-year average number of school closure days equals more than the current two storm/emergency days, that is the number of storm/emergency days that you must include in your calendar for school closure days.

3. If the number of days the school or district is closed or provides less than a full day of instruction, exceeds the required number of days on the calendar, then the school or district must make every effort to reschedule the remaining classes, so students receive the number of full instructional days (175) **or an equivalent period of instructional time determined by the state superintendent.**

**ND Century Code 15.1-06-04. -- was not changed this legislative session thus remains as defined in statute.**

8. a. If a school's calendar provides for an extension of each school day beyond the statutorily required minimum number of hours, and if the extensions when aggregated over an entire school year amount to more than 84 hours of additional classroom instruction during the school year, **the school is exempt from having to make up six hours of instruction time lost as a result of weather-related closure.** In order to make up lost classroom instruction time beyond the six hours, the school must extend its normal school calendar day by at least thirty minutes.

**Gentle Reminders:**

1. A full day of instruction consists of 5.5 hours for kindergarten & elementary students in attendance for the purpose of receiving curricular instruction; and a full day of instruction consists of 6 hours for high school students in attendance for the purpose of receiving curricular instruction.
2. **SB 2031: Section 13 amends and reenacts NDCC 15.1-27-23** related to school closures due to weather or other emergencies, the governor will no longer be granting waivers for less than a full day of instruction.

If you have further questions, please contact Dr. Sherry Houdek (701-323-2755 or [shoudek@nd.gov](mailto:shoudek@nd.gov)) or Carol Harmsen (701-328-2266 or [charmsen@nd.gov](mailto:charmsen@nd.gov)).