

# Davidson County Schools

## Inclement Weather Make Up Information

Please read the information included for an explanation regarding these make up days, as well as insight for any future inclement weather.

The following outlines school system closures due to Winter Storm Diego and the corresponding make up dates for students and staff:

**Monday,**

**December 10**

(Closed for students and all staff)

**Saturday, January 5**

**Tuesday,**

**December 11**

(Closed for students and 10 month staff)

**Tuesday, January 22**

**Wednesday,**

**December 12**

(Closed for students & optional workday for staff)

**Friday, March 29**

**Thursday,**

**December 13**

(Closed for students & optional workday for staff)

**Friday, April 26**

**Friday,**

**December 14**

(Closed for students & optional workday for staff)

**Thursday, April 25**

While not ideal to miss a full week of school so close to Winter Break, it was necessary for the district to close schools each of the five days for the safety of all of our students K-12.

Employees from the DCS Operations Department were working to clear snow and make campuses safe and accessible even before the snow stopped falling. And members of the Davidson County division of the NC Department of Transportation worked non-stop for days clearing roads in our county. However, excessive mounds of ice and snow were present on streets, sidewalks, and bus stops through Friday. Additionally, some roads within the school district, but outside the county lines, remained untreated through Friday.



To say this fall has been an unusual one due to weather related issues would be an understatement. Currently, students have missed nine instructional days from the original 2018-2019 school calendar this fall. Davidson County Schools personnel value the instructional time with students more than anyone, so decisions that impact this time are never made lightly.

Maintaining non-school days during Spring Break is important to our families and our staff members, and we want to preserve those breaks when we can without negatively impacting the academic progress of our students. Unfortunately, with the present calendar, this has not been an option.

After missed days due to two hurricanes, our Board of Education approved forgiving instructional hours for October 12 and approved making December 21 a full day forgiving instructional hours for September 17. This was possible due to the five additional minutes in the instructional day this school year.

A very restrictive calendar law limits opportunities already, and even more so at this point. There is nothing in legislation that allows school districts to “waive” making up instructional time if a state of emergency has been declared. The only legislation that governs school calendars can be found here: <https://ncleg.net/gascripts/statutes/statutelookup.pl?statute=115c-84.2>

Understanding that winter has not truly begun for us yet, it is logical to assume additional school days could be lost to inclement weather in January, February, and even March. It is possible to use Saturdays when the week does not exceed five days. Adding additional minutes to the instructional day is also possible, but many factors must be considered before doing so. Five additional minutes each day for the remainder of the year would result in only one additional instructional day, and contracted staff must complete 215 work days. Again, decisions that have such important impacts on our students, staff, and community are not made casually. If Mother Nature interrupts our academic calendar again this school year, all of the options will be considered.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we work to make DCS the best for our students, staff, and community.