

# Frequently asked Questions

- 1) **Where do we get information on what is required when creating our school calendar?**
  - [§ 115C-84.2. School Calendar](#)
  - [North Carolina Department of Public Instruction – School Calendar Guidance](#)
  - [DCS Board Policy 2.7 School Calendar](#)
  
- 2) **Why do we start school so early/late? Why do we go to school so late in June? Why are the holidays and winter/spring breaks so short?**
  - The start date can be no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26, and the end date can be no later than the Friday closest to June 11. School calendars must meet these **state** requirements. Many times there is little flexibility to adhere to these requirements and meet the preferences of our students, families, and staff.  
  
For additional information about school calendar law requirements, please access the following link: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/accounting/calendar>
  
- 3) **How do we give our input on the decisions to make-up time?**
  - Each year we collect input on our “Inclement Weather/Make-up Time Survey.” This survey is made available to parents and students in an online format as part of our school calendar communications sent home each year with the first report cards.
  
- 4) **Why don’t we extend the school day to make up instructional time?**
  - The “Inclement Weather/Make-up Time Survey” results weigh heavily on decisions regarding make-up days. Other factors are also taken into consideration. For instance, if the decision had been made to extend the school day instead of a make-up day, workdays for many different staff members would be affected. Extending the school day does not waive a workday for teachers. Teachers would have an extended workday, and they would also have to make up a day later in the school year to reach the number of total days required. On a teacher workday, cafeteria workers and bus drivers do not work or get paid. School Nutrition food inventories are not utilized and many students are not provided the opportunity for a meal those days. It is our conclusion that most people would place a greater educational value on an instructional day versus a teacher workday.
  
- 5) **Does the Davidson County Schools Calendar meet the 185 days or the 1,025 hours requirement?**
  - Davidson County Schools meets the minimum requirement of 1,025 instructional hours. For each day missed and each day with a delayed start, hours are deducted from our projected total of instructional hours for the school year. If school is dismissed early due to inclement weather, the entire day counts toward the instructional hours.
  
- 6) **Why can’t we waive the days missed like some other surrounding school systems?**

- As a result of our schools having different school day start/end times, individual schools accumulate hours differently and many schools have a different projected instructional hours total. Although some schools are projected to have an instructional hours total far greater than the required 1,025 hours, the school with the shortest instructional day often dictates how many inclement weather days missed can be waived or must be made up by all schools in the system. We must make sure all of our schools meet the minimum instructional hours requirement.

**7) Why don't you use the "Make-Up Days" in the order they are listed on the calendar?**

- The potential "Make-up Days" on the school calendar are listed in chronological order, not necessarily in the order they will be used. Depending on *when* the inclement weather occurs sometimes affects which days are used. We also receive input from parents, staff and Board Members as the year progresses that can have an impact on the final decision by the Board of Education. PLEASE NOTE: The school calendar may be amended by the Board of Education to provide additional instructional time on student days, Saturdays, at the end of the school year, on early release days, or on any other current non-instructional day to meet NC General Statute 115C-84.2 requirements.

**8) Does a State of Emergency, issued by the Governor, allow days to be waived?**

- No. A Governor-issued State of Emergency does not change the statutory requirements in G.S. 115C-84.2 for 185 instructional days or 1,025 instructional hours. The General Assembly is the only body that is authorized to waive the minimum instructional requirements.

**9) How can the Superintendent make the decision about a make-up day without Board approval/ before a Board meeting?**

- Davidson County Schools Board Policy states in Section 2.7 "Calendar Committee" Section E-8, "Changes in the calendar during the school year will be made by the Superintendent as necessary, but will require Board approval at the next regular meeting."