

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Item
September 13-14, 2012

OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION

21. Discussion of days missed by school districts as a result of Hurricane Isaac

Pursuant to MS Code 37-13-63, the State Board of Education is authorized to allow a school district to alter its calendar on a case-by-case basis in the event of a natural disaster or extreme weather emergency in which the Governor has declared a state of emergency. If a school board of any school district shall determine that it is not economically feasible or practicable to operate any school within the district for the full one hundred eighty (180) days required for a full school term as required in Section 37-13-63 of the *Mississippi Code* and Standard 19 as published in the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*, said school board may notify the State Department of Education of such disaster or weather emergency and submit a request to alter the school term.

Emergency weather conditions resulting from intense flooding and tornadic activity associated with Hurricane Isaac have caused many school districts in our state to miss days during the fall of 2012.

In accordance with Section 37-13-63, the State Board of Education may permit the school board to operate in its district for less than 180 days.

Back-up material attached

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION**

HURRICANE ISAAC DATA COLLECTION FORM

Date:

District:

District Code:

Superintendent (or Designee):

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Number of Early Release Days:

Dismissal Time:

Number of Full Days Missed:

Number of Contractual Days for Teachers in Original Calendar:

Number of Student Days in Original Calendar:

Number of "Inclement Weather" Days Built into Original Calendar:

Number of Early-Release Days to be made up:

Number of Days to be made up:

Has the Board approved a schedule (Revised Calendar) for Make-up Days?

If no, what is the expected date of Board approval of Make-up Days?

If the district believes it is not economically feasible or practical to make up the days missed due to Hurricane Isaac, briefly state the rationale for your position.



Mississippi Department of Education

Lynn House, Ph.D., Interim State Superintendent of Education

Office of Educational Accountability


John O. Gilbert, CPA • Director

Office of Accreditation

Paula A. Vanderford, Ph.D. • Education Bureau Manager • 601-359-3764 • FAX: 601-359-1979

MEMORANDUM

To: District Superintendents

From: Paula A. Vanderford, Ph.D. 
Education Bureau Manager, Office of Accreditation

Date: September 7, 2012

Subject: Hurricane Isaac Data Collection

Many school districts in our state experienced unexpected closings due to inclement weather associated with Hurricane Isaac. As a result of these closings, the current calendar for some districts will not reflect the minimum instructional time per day and 180 teaching days as required by state statute, State Board Policy, and Accreditation Standards. Accreditation Standard 19, as approved by the State Board of Education and published in *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2012*, requires each school district to provide a minimum of 180 teaching days in which both teachers and pupils are in regular attendance for scheduled classroom instruction for not less than sixty percent (60%) of the normal school day. Standard 19 also requires 330 minutes of instructional time per day or 27.5 hours of instructional time per week.

Current legislation gives the State Board of Education (SBE) the authority to grant exceptions when **catastrophic conditions** exist, the Governor or President has declared a disaster emergency, and it would not be **economically feasible or practical** for the district to make up the days missed prior to the end of the school year. Since a state of emergency was declared as a result of Hurricane Isaac, the Office of Accreditation is collecting data for consideration by the SBE when making its decision.

Please complete the attached *Hurricane Isaac Data Collection Form* and return to the Office of Accreditation no later than 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 12, 2012. We apologize for the quick turn around, but we would like to present this information to the SBE at its September meeting. You may submit your information by emailing pvanderford@mde.k12.ms.us or faxing it to 601.359.1979. All districts must submit a response to the Office of Accreditation even if no days were missed. The collection of this data does not suggest that the SBE will be granting waivers for making up all days missed.

"Quality Education for Every Child"

Central High School Building • 359 North West Street • P.O. Box 771 • Jackson, MS 39205-0771

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Dr. House will present this information to the State Board of Education on September 13-14, 2012. Following the decision made by the SBE, we will provide you direction and support in your efforts to comply with state statute, State Board Policy and accreditation standards. Submissions received after the deadline on September 12, 2012, will be considered at the October SBE meeting.

If you have any questions concerning this request, please contact the Office of Accreditation at (601) 359-3764.

c: Lynn J. House, Ph.D.
John O. Gilbert, CPA
Leadership Team

District	# of Early Release Days	# of Full Days Missed	# of Days to be made up	Not Economically Feasible or Practical -Briefly State the Rational
Amite Co	1	3	3	It is not economically feasible or practical to make up days missed due to Hurricane Isaac. In an already poor district, with less than full MAEP funding, it would be added cost disproportionate to our ability to pay, if we were forced to make up those days. We sustained some damages from the hurricane for which we now must pay. Fuel costs have also risen to an all-time high and have exceeded our projected budgetary figures in that area. Our extended family has already suffered significantly from this natural disaster and it will only prolong the agony to lose expected holidays to make up for the lost days.
Biloxi		3	3	Make-up days are Oct 8, Feb 13 and March 28.
Brookhaven	1	2	2	
Claiborne Co	0	3	3	
Clinton	0	1	1	
Columbia	1	2	2	The district believes it will not be economically feasible to make up the days lost because of additional operating costs and an anticipated high rate of student and employee absenteeism.
Copiah Co	0	2	0	The two inclement weather days we had built into our calendar have now been used due to Hurricane Isaac. This does not leave us any more for the rest of the school year
Forest Municipal	2	1	1	The Forest Municipal SD closed all schools on August 30, 2012 due to severe weather as a result of Hurricane Isaac. Our district will be making up that student day on Monday, April 1, 2012.
Forrest Co	2	3	3	
Forrest Co AHS	0	3	3	
Franklin Co	0	3	3	Waiting on MDE decision on making up days or not.
George Co	0	4	4	If days are made up, all 4 days missed for students will need tp be made up prior to Christmas break. The high school is on a 4X4 schedule with little option for variation. Making up days could impact attendance and moral. Also to be considered are wages of non-certified employees. We have
Greene Co	N/A	4	4	It would be difficult to make up all 4 days 1st semester. The only option is Christmas
Hancock Co	1	4	4	Recommended: Oct. 8-full day, Nov. 19,-full day, Nov. 20, full day, Dec. 19, full day, Dec. 20, full day, Feb. 13, Pro. Make-up day
Hattiesburg	0	2	2	We request that one day be made up.
Harrison Co	4	N/A	4	Make-up days are Oct 8, Nov 20 & 21, Dec 21.

District	# of Early Release Days	# of Full Days Missed	# of Days to be made up	Not Economically Feasible or Practical -Briefly State the Rational
Hazlehurst City	0	2	2	Making up 3 days would push our calenders for students past graduation and Memorial day. Many students and parents plan vacations and senior trips around these days. We are also very early in the school year and very likely to have additional days of incelement weather where a state of emergency could be declared. We have incurred cost related to storm damage. We have started the new school year with a NCLB waver and are in the middle of implementing common core curriculum implementation. informing students that the 3 days missed might potentially impact student
Hinds Co	0	2	2	
Houston	2	3	3	
Indianola		0	0	
Jackson Co	0	4	4	
Jefferson Co	0	3	3	
Jefferson Davis Co.	1	2	2	
Jones Co	1	2	2	
Kemper Co	1	2	2	
Lamar Co	1	2	2	We plan for our Early Release to be made up May 24, which is a 60% day on our school calendar. Oct. 16 is a built in bad weather day for the fall semester, on our calendar and is also 1 of 2 days for our fall break. Our concern as a district is that families have planned vacation around Oct. 15 & 16 and our attendance will low both days.
Laurel	1	2	2	
Lawrence Co	1	3	3	
Lincoln Co	1	3	3	
Long Beach	0	4	4	
Lumberton	0	4	4	
Moss Point	0	4	4	
Natchez	0	3	3	
North Pike	2	3	3	
Pass Christian	0	4	4	We have only one day worked into our calendar as our "Inclement Weather" day. The concern is that we usually end up missing a day for ice or snow, so this will most likely cause us issues in the spring semester, if we have to dismiss for another "inclement weather" day.

District	# of Early Release Days	# of Full Days Missed	# of Days to be made up	Not Economically Feasible or Practical -Briefly State the Rational
Pearl	0	1	1	We have only one day worked into our calendar as our "Inclement Weather" day. The concern is that we usually end up missing a day for ice or snow, so this will most likely cause us issues in the spring semester, if we have to dismiss for another "inclement weather" day.
Pearl River Co	2	4	4	The first Monday in December
Perry Co	0	2	2	
Poplarville	0	4	4	A make-up schedule has been approved for the days missed due to storm, we respectfully request forgiveness of 2 of the 4 absences.
Quitman	0	1	1	
Richton	0	2	2	
Simpson Co	1	2	2	
Smith Co	1	2	2	We would have to make up our days during Thanksgiving. This is a time that our parents have already planned to be gone for the Holidays, and I think we would have a very low attendance for these days.
South Delta	N/A	1	1	
South Pike	1	3	3	
Stone Co	0	4	4	Our district incurred clean-up expenses which were not budgeted and the district declared a shortfall for the 2011-2012 school year, so it is not economically feasible to make the days.
Vicksburg-Warren	2	3	3	
Wayne Co	0	2	2	
Western Line	1	0	0	
West Jasper	0	2	2	The board agreed to delay setting the makeup date for the whole day (Sept. 30) until later in the year.
Yazoo City	2	0	2	Disitrcct has proposed make-days of March 8 & April 1, 2014. May 28 will be a make-up day for teachers/staff.
Yazoo Co	1 & 1 - 60% day	1	1 & 1/2	
Forrest Co AHS	0	3	3	
Hinds Co AHS	1-Aug-29	1-Aug-30	1	