

SECTION ____. **AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-06-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-06-04. School calendar - Length.

1. A school district shall provide for a school calendar that includes:

- a. At least nine hundred sixty-two and one-half hours of instruction for elementary school students and one thousand fifty hours of instruction for middle and high school students;
- b. Three holidays, as selected by the board in consultation with district teachers from the list provided for in subdivisions b through j of subsection 1 of section 15.1-06-02;
- c. No more than two days for:
 - (1) Parent-teacher conferences; or
 - (2) Compensatory time for parent-teacher conferences held outside of regular school hours; and
- d. At least three days of professional development not including meals or breaks.

2. For the first three days of professional development required under subdivision d of subsection 1, a day of professional development must consist of:

- a. Six hours of professional development, exclusive of meals and other breaks, conducted within a single day;
- b. Six hours of cumulative professional development conducted under the auspices of a professional learning community; or
- c. Two four-hour periods of professional development, exclusive of meals and other breaks, conducted over two days.

3. If because of weather or other conditions a school must cancel hours of instruction or dismiss before completing all hours of instruction for the day, the school is responsible for making up only those hours and portions of an hour between the time of cancellation or early dismissal and the conclusion of all hours of classroom instruction for the day if the dismissal will result in the school failing to meet the requirements of subdivision a of subsection 1.

4. A school district may satisfy the requirements of this section by providing no more than eighteen hours for elementary and no more than twenty-one hours for high school of virtual instruction pursuant to section 15.1-07-25.4 if:

- a. All available designated storm days in the district's calendar have been used; and
- b. A plan has been approved by the local school board.

~~4.~~ 5. For purposes of this section, a full day of instruction at a physical school plant consists of:

- a. At least five and one-half hours for kindergarten and elementary students, during which time the students are required to be in attendance for the purpose of receiving curricular instruction; and
- b. At least six hours for high school students, during which time the students are required to be in attendance for the purpose of receiving curricular instruction.

~~5.~~ 6. If a school district intends to operate under a school calendar that consists of four days of instruction per week, the school district shall apply and be approved for a waiver by the superintendent of public instruction.

~~6.~~ 7. If a school district intends to provide virtual instruction, the instruction must comply with the requirements under subsection ~~4-5~~. The attendance of students participating in virtual instruction must be verified by monitoring the student's progress on academic pacing guides developed by the school district to ensure students are in attendance and receiving sufficient curricular instruction, as defined in rules adopted by the superintendent of public instruction.

SECTION ____. **AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-27-23 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-27-23. Weather or other conditions - Closure of schools - State aid payments to school districts.

1. The board of each school district shall establish the length of a period, day, and week in accordance with the requirements of section 15.1-06-04. If a public school or school district is closed or provides less than a full day of instruction, the public school or school district shall reschedule those hours to ensure students receive at least the minimum number of instructional hours required by subdivision a of subsection 1 of section 15.1-06-04. A school or school district may satisfy the requirements of this section by providing no more than eighteen hours for elementary and no more than twenty-one hours for high school of virtual instruction under section 15.1-06-04.

2. Any public school or school district for which the rescheduling of classes would create undue hardship may request that, for purposes of calculating state aid payments to the school district, the governor waive the rescheduling in whole or in part.

SECTION ____. **AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-07-25.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-07-25.4. Virtual learning - School district policy - Report to legislative

management and legislative assembly.

1. The board of a school district or governing board of a nonpublic school that operates a physical school plant may adopt a policy to allow students to engage in virtual instruction and in the case of a school district, qualify for average daily membership in the district.
2. Virtual instruction that occurs as a result of weather or other conditions under section 15.1-06-04:
 - a. May only be used if the district has no remaining designated storm days available;
 - b. Is limited to eighteen hours for elementary and twenty-one hours for high school; and
 - c. Requires a plan to be approved by the local school board.
3. The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules governing policies under this section. A policy adopted by a school district under this section must comply with the rules adopted by the superintendent of public instruction.