



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education *CRJ*

DATE: February 14, 2022

SUBJECT: School Closures and the School Calendar

The purpose of this communication is to review the pertinent law regarding the school calendar with respect to granting waivers of the 180-day requirement. Sections 10-15 and 10-16 of the Connecticut General Statutes require public schools to provide a minimum of 180 days of actual school sessions per school year. Some school districts within Connecticut have attributed some closures during the current school year to the COVID-19 pandemic and have expressed concerns regarding their ability to make up these days.

Section 10-15 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides that the State Board of Education (SBE) “may authorize the shortening of any school year for a school district, a school or a portion of a school on account of an unavoidable emergency.” Consequently, school districts that believe that they have experienced “an unavoidable emergency” that either requires or justifies the shortening of the 180-school-day calendar can petition the SBE for such relief.

It is important to remember that districts that originally included more than 180 school days in their annual school calendar are not required to make up any days that are in excess of the statutorily mandated 180 school days. Therefore, such districts are not required to seek or to obtain approval from the SBE to shorten or otherwise modify the school calendar, so long as school is in session on at least 180 days. Similarly, districts are not obligated to obtain SBE approval should they choose to shorten their February or April vacations.

If you have any questions or need further guidance, including the process for petitioning the SBE, please feel free to contact Michael P. McKeon, the Connecticut State Department of Education's Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs, at mike.mckeon@ct.gov.

Thank you again for all that you do to ensure safe, in-person learning environments for both students and staff.