

MEMO TO: Dr. Rob Jackson, Superintendent

FROM: Dr. Jennifer Reed, Associate Superintendent

DATE: February 6, 2026

RE: 2025-2026 Academic Calendar Adjustment Recommendations

I am writing to respectfully request your consideration of several adjustments to the 2025–26 Academic Calendar in response to instructional time that has been lost this school year due to inclement weather. These recommendations are grounded in our shared commitment to ensuring students have sufficient, high-quality learning time as we prepare them for their futures.

North Carolina General Statute 115C-84.3 (Remote Instruction) permits school systems to utilize up to five days, or 30 hours, of remote instruction due to inclement weather. Additionally, NC General Statute 115C-84.2 (School Calendar) requires a minimum of 185 school days or 1,025 instructional hours each year.

Within these parameters, and with student learning as our guiding priority, I am requesting the Board consider the following adjustments to the calendar to help recover lost instructional time:

- Change Thursday, February 12, from a PLC Early Dismissal Day to a full school day, restoring two hours of instructional time.
- Change Monday, May 25, from an Annual Leave Day to an Optional Teacher Workday to offset the Annual Leave Day used on January 26. January 26 was a scheduled student day, resulting in a loss of six instructional hours.
- Change Friday, February 13, from an Optional Teacher Workday to a full school day, restoring an additional six hours of in-person instruction lost on January 26.

As of February 6, 2026, the school system has:

- Utilized five remote days, totaling 20 hours of remote instruction and resulting in a net loss of 10 instructional hours,
- Experienced three two-hour delays, resulting in a loss of six instructional hours
- Used one Annual Leave Day on a student day, resulting in an additional loss of six instructional hours
- Missed an additional 6-hour student day on February 5, resulting in a loss of an additional 6 instructional hours, and
- Additionally, we had one inclement weather two-hour Early Dismissal Day on January 30. Even though this did result in lost instructional time for students, state law allows for those lost hours to count towards required instructional time for the year.

Collectively, this amounts to 28 hours of lost instruction during the 2025–26 school year. The Enka and Erwin districts have experienced an additional two-hour loss due to utilizing one more remote day than the rest of the system.

BCS began the year with 1,062 instructional hours. As of February 6, prior to any calendar adjustments, the system stands at 1,034 instructional hours, with Enka and Erwin at 1,032 hours.

If all recommended adjustments are approved, the calendar would provide:

- 1,042 instructional hours for the Owen, Reynolds, Roberson, and North Buncombe districts, and
- 1,040 instructional hours for the Enka and Erwin districts.

These changes would meaningfully support student learning while maintaining compliance with state requirements. I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of these recommendations and your continued commitment to doing what is best for our students.