



BELLEVUE COMETS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Comet Highlights from the December 14, 2022 Meeting

December 15	Elementary Winter Music Concert
December 19	MS Winter Music Concert
December 22 -	No School Winter Break; Teacher Workday on January 4;
January 4	Teacher Professional Learning Day
January 5	Students return for the start of the 2nd Semester
January 16	No School for students; Teacher Professional Learning Day
January 25	2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students; Teacher Professional Learning

To view a calendar of events see the following link:

<https://www.rivervalleyconference.org/public/genie/628/school/1/>

APPROVED - Consent Agenda

Approve Open Enrollment Requests

- Addilynn Palmer - 2nd Grade - Andrew to Bellevue
- Emma Palmer - 1st Grade - Andrew to Bellevue

Approve Resignations

- Penny Medinger - Board Secretary - Retirement effective September 29, 2023 (after the current Certified Annual Report is completed). Penny has been employed by the district for 35 years. While I am not the only superintendent she has worked with, nor are you the only board members, I feel confident in saying she is a pleasure to work with, extremely knowledgeable about MANY things, does a fantastic job, and will be missed significantly for many reasons.
 - I would recommend we advertise for this position in the near future (January), and seek a replacement. Depending on the candidate's experience and who is chosen, we can determine when this person would start. I will also share some salary information for this position in the future, which may also depend on the licensure/certification, experience, and other factors.
- Brittany Glaser - HS Volleyball Coach - Brittany has determined that she wants to spend more family time, along with having the travel impacting her role as the coach. Brittany did an outstanding job with our students in the last two years in a variety of areas.

Approve Recommendations to Hire

- Riley Till - HS Girls and Boys Bowling - Riley has coached in the past for us and the bowling program and will be continuing this for both boys and girls this season. We will be paying someone to attend meets as a driver of another suburban in most cases instead of taking a bus (Riley also drives a suburban to the meets).

- Michelle Teply - Associate at Bellevue Elementary - Michelle has been a sub recently for this position, and has experience working with individuals who need special assistance in the past in her prior employment at Hills and Dales and the ARC.
- Chase Putman - MS Boys Basketball - Chase is working to finish his certification, but will have it prior to the start of the season (after winter break). Chase has experience both as a player and a youth coach in the past.

Recognize any Visitors

No visitors were present during the meeting.

Comet Curriculum

Meyer shared some survey information with the Board from our staff, parents, and students. Meyer will share this online in the upcoming weeks on the district website. Meyer noted some areas of improvement from last year in many areas, along with some potential areas where improvement may be needed. He also emphasized that this is one data point, and we must look at several things to develop an accurate understanding of anything.

APPROVED - School Bus Bids

Bids were due on December 12, and Meyer shared these at the Board meeting with Tim Roth. The following bids were received:

Hoglund (HBC) - International	\$122,298
Truck Center - Thomas	\$124,403
School Bus Sales (Blue Bird)	\$128,720

*All are diesel engines

Hoglund was approved for the bus purchase as they met all specs (as did all other bids) and were the lowest bid. The board also had a conversation about electric buses and the potential issues at this time, but in the future this may be a pathway.

Facilities Updates and Discussions

Meyer shared information about a variety of things with a potential referendum, along with the petitions in the community that are being signed. Some highlights included the following:

1. Meyer shared tax rates for a \$2.70 levy (that he also shared with teachers earlier in the day in meetings in both buildings). Remember it is not as easy as taking the value multiplied by \$2.70...there are "credits", etc. and it is taxable value and not market value.

\$2.70 Levy

* Any suggested tax increase (a) is only an estimate, and (b) does not include any change upward or downward in tax rates that your City, County and Community College may cause to their budgets in any given fiscal year.

1/1/2021 Assessed Value*	1/1/2021 Rollback	Taxable Value	Less Homestead Credit**	Net Taxable Value	Est. Tax Rate Change per \$1,000	Change in Annual Tax Payment	Change in Tax Payment per Month
Residential Property							
\$50,000 x	54.13020% =	\$27,065 -	\$4,850.00 =	\$22,215 x	\$2.70000 =	\$59.98	\$5.00
\$60,000 x	54.13020% =	\$32,478 -	\$4,850.00 =	\$27,628 x	2.70000 =	\$74.60	\$6.22
\$75,000 x	54.13020% =	\$40,598 -	\$4,850.00 =	\$35,748 x	2.70000 =	\$96.52	\$8.04
\$100,000 x	54.13020% =	\$54,130 -	\$4,850.00 =	\$49,280 x	2.70000 =	\$133.06	\$11.09
\$125,000 x	54.13020% =	\$67,663 -	\$4,850.00 =	\$62,813 x	2.70000 =	\$169.59	\$14.13
\$150,000 x	54.13020% =	\$81,195 -	\$4,850.00 =	\$76,345 x	2.70000 =	\$206.13	\$17.18
\$200,000 x	54.13020% =	\$108,260 -	\$4,850.00 =	\$103,410 x	2.70000 =	\$279.21	\$23.27
\$250,000 x	54.13020% =	\$135,326 -	\$4,850.00 =	\$130,476 x	2.70000 =	\$352.28	\$29.36
\$350,000 x	54.13020% =	\$189,456 -	\$4,850.00 =	\$184,606 x	2.70000 =	\$498.44	\$41.54
\$450,000 x	54.13020% =	\$243,586 -	\$4,850.00 =	\$238,736 x	2.70000 =	\$644.59	\$53.72
Multi-residential (Apartment, Nursing, etc.)gradually Grandfathering down to "Residential" rollback in 2022							
\$75,000 x	63.75000% =	\$47,813 -	0 =	\$47,813 x	2.70000 =	\$129.09	\$10.76
\$150,000 x	63.75000% =	\$95,625 -	0 =	\$95,625 x	2.70000 =	\$258.19	\$21.52
Commercial Property							
\$25,000 x	90.00000% =	\$22,500 -	0 =	\$22,500 x	2.70000 =	\$60.75	\$5.06
\$40,000 x	90.00000% =	\$36,000 -	0 =	\$36,000 x	2.70000 =	\$97.20	\$8.10
\$50,000 x	90.00000% =	\$45,000 -	0 =	\$45,000 x	2.70000 =	\$121.50	\$10.13
\$75,000 x	90.00000% =	\$67,500 -	0 =	\$67,500 x	2.70000 =	\$182.25	\$15.19
\$100,000 x	90.00000% =	\$90,000 -	0 =	\$90,000 x	2.70000 =	\$243.00	\$20.25
\$150,000 x	90.00000% =	\$135,000 -	0 =	\$135,000 x	2.70000 =	\$364.50	\$30.38
\$250,000 x	90.00000% =	\$225,000 -	0 =	\$225,000 x	2.70000 =	\$607.50	\$50.63
\$500,000 x	90.00000% =	\$450,000 -	0 =	\$450,000 x	2.70000 =	\$1,215.00	\$101.25
Agricultural Property (land only on a per acre basis)*							
StateLo:Lucas \$484 x	89.04120% =	\$431 -	0 =	\$431 x	2.70000 =	\$1.16359	\$0.10
JACKSON \$1,208 x	89.04120% =	\$1,076 -	0 =	\$1,076 x	2.70000 =	\$2.90417	\$0.24
StateHi:Grundy \$1,836 x	89.04120% =	\$1,635 -	0 =	\$1,635 x	2.70000 =	\$4.41395	\$0.37

Actual Average Assessed Value of 1 Acre Ag Land in Jackson County for 1/1/2021 Valuation = \$1,208



- Assessed Value IS NOT "Market Value"...Assessed Value is determined by County Assessor while Market Value is determined by the open real estate marketplace. Market Value plays no role in determining taxable value or property tax dollars.
- Homestead Credit may vary from County to County
- Farm Buildings Are Assessed with the Agriculture Property ROLLBACK
- Ag Property will pay the school levy, but will pay a different CITY levy than Residential Property if the land is within City limits.
- Within CITY limits Ag Property pays the Ag Levy (likely near the maximum rate of \$3.00375) and NOT the City Levy....but, does still pay all school levies, including PPEL and Debt Service. The farm home pays the entire levy just as any other home within City limits, except the City levy is replaced with the County levy.

Ag Land Examples, Assuming "Average" Assessed Valuation of Land:			
40	acres	x	\$2.90417 = \$116.17
80	acres	x	\$2.90417 = \$232.33
160	acres	x	\$2.90417 = \$464.67
240	acres	x	\$2.90417 = \$697.00
320	acres	x	\$2.90417 = \$929.33
500	acres	x	\$2.90417 = \$1,452.08
1,000	acres	x	\$2.90417 = \$2,904.17
2,000	acres	x	\$2.90417 = \$5,808.34

Avg Market Value Jackson	What would the tax increase be if you MISTAKENLY calculated the increase on your ag land using the MARKET VALUE at the basis?
\$9,449.00	÷ 1000 = 9.45 x \$2.70 = 25.51 x 320 acres = \$8,164
(market value)	vs. the actual estimated tax increase of: \$929.33

- The Board approved an Engagement Letter for the referendum process with Ahlers and Cooney (as required by law for referendums and associated procedures).
- Meyer shared the process for mailings for the district with information/facts about the referendum for the future with stakeholders.
- A Question/Answer document is shared in the Comet Reading and Reflection section later in the notes.

5. Petition sheets have been circulating at events by a community group.

The district is waiting on a "temporary" building at the elementary school until more details are provided and until after the referendum, while still recognizing a need for space for both the short- and long-term.

The main gym floor at the Bellevue MS/HS is having problem with finish peeling. This has been an issue since the first part of November. It is being re-done by the contractor for the floor from July on December 21 and during the winter break. Practices can still occur in the west gym during break, and it will be ready before students return.

APPROVED - Early Graduates

The following are students who qualify for early graduation AND have expressed their intention to graduate early, pending the completion of enough credits to graduate. I recommend we approve them at this meeting, recognizing they can return to school 2nd semester if they choose or they do not complete the required credits.

Amling	Lily
Freiburger	Lily
Hingtgen	Cameron
Holdgrafer	Ashton
Owen	Gatlin
Schlie	Madyson
Veach	Kady

APPROVED - Special Education Contracts

The Bellevue CSD serves students who are identified with IEP's annually, along with having some students open-enrolled out of the district who have IEP's. The board needs to approve these services for funding. At this time we have students from the Andrew and Dubuque CSD served in the Bellevue CSD, plus the opposite directions. Ultimately, funding for these students follows to where they are receiving services.

APPROVED - Technology Purchases

I am recommending that we purchase teacher computers for next school year. The total of 60 Macbook computers (MacAir) would cost approximately \$880 each, for a total of \$52,800. This would be from PPEL and is in our normal rotation of computers (last purchase was during the 2017-2018 school year, and the computers were a "closeout" of the model at that time).

Some of the computers are having issues with batteries (\$100-150 replacement for a computer worth about \$250 technically at this time), accessibility to

programs based on upgrades, etc. I believe this would allow us to get computers in and ready to distribute to staff in February or March.

- a. In regard to students, we may be able to look at a rotation of Chromebooks for all students (we currently have Mac's for students in grades 11 & 12) that would be less expensive. The improvements of the Chromebooks and the programs that are being utilized that are more web-based and compatible with their platform make this a realistic option to investigate.

I have moved forward with purchasing a system for our Board Room to be utilized by the district for online meetings, etc. Right now the set-up is antiquated and causing issues for the more and more meetings that are happening online for our staff. We are purchasing a Logitech Videoconferencing system. This is a lower level one than what Matt shared with me from Collins Aerospace, but we believe it will serve our needs very well.

Comet Reading and Reflection

See the information below in regard to Q/A about bond referendums and the utilization of funds. Meyer emphasized the areas overall, but especially the following areas:

- Use of funds
- Debt Limit
- Tax Impact
- Taxes for Schools

Q&A Regarding School District Bonding

Prepared by: Piper Jaffray & Co.

**This is not an exhaustive list of all questions a patron might have.*

Because a Piper Jaffray representative is here at our community meeting, does that mean that Piper Jaffray is recommending that our district construct new buildings, or borrow money for the needs being presented?

NO. Neither Piper Jaffray nor its employees have an opinion about your projects. We do not live in your community, pay taxes in your community, have students in your community, own property in your community. The choice to build, renovate, improve, demolish, or whatever...is solely a local decision made by school board members and local patrons voicing their opinions either at public meetings or through the voting process. Piper Jaffray is only participating to help provide factual information related to bonding and any tax implications that may have so that in the event bonds are used to fund your project you are educated on the impact it will have on property owners and the overall finances of the school district.

From what sources can a school build new or renovate existing infrastructure in Iowa?

- CASH DONATIONS or GRANTS
- Voted G.O. Bonds
- PPEL Notes (Voted PPEL)
- Sales Tax Bonds

Can a school use bond money to give teachers or staff a raise or pay employment-related expenses?

ABSOLUTELY NOT. These are two separate pots of money. Debt Service Fund, PPEL and Sales Tax monies are ONLY to be used for infrastructure improvement; repayment of debt or payment for improvements in cash.

Is it possible that a school can be laying off staff or cutting routine expenditures while also building brand new buildings?

ABSOLUTELY. This is very common although it's perplexing to most patrons. Many Iowa schools can't afford to build any new buildings, but can afford to fund regular school costs easily. Other schools need to cut ongoing expenditures while still being able to fund new infrastructure projects. The funding sources for these two things are completely separate and unrelated.

Does the PRIOR bonded debt of the District impact our ability to fund a project now?

YES. The remaining prior debt hinders your ability to fund a larger project now in two way:

1. Remaining principal outstanding counts toward the DEBT LIMIT
2. Remaining P&I payment amounts must be calculated into the maximum debt service levy rate of \$2.70 or \$4.05 along with any new bond payments

Even if the entire community were supportive of any project the district put forth, and was willing to pay any tax levy associated with it (Ha, Ha, Ha)...are we still limited to the size of our project?

YES. The total amount of borrowing is limited overall by the Debt Limit which is a statutory limit dictated by Iowa Code. Within that Debt Limit you are also limited to total borrowing sizes that do not exceed:

- \$4.05 for G.O. Bonds
- \$1.34 for PPEL Notes
- 1.20x Coverage for Sales Tax Bonds (general rule)

Are there Iowa school districts that are close to or at their statutory Debt Limit?

YES.

Are there Iowa school districts that have no debt at all?

YES.

Patrons should determine what their local students and community need, and then determine how they can fund that need. You should not simply compare your tax levy rates to neighboring district's to determine if a project is feasible. A neighboring district may have a very low tax rate, but they may also have not improved their buildings in 50+ years, or they may be using all

of their sales tax revenues to keep their tax rates low....but, don't have those sales tax funds then to provide for ongoing needs. You must understand the entire big picture of each district; something that most patrons of your district will never truly understand when comparing one to another. Be cautious when you compare. You rarely can truly be comparing Apples-to-Apples.

The concept of MILLIONS of dollars is difficult to grasp. There is much gossip that circulates regarding tax levies and bond voting. Is there a simple way that I can calculate what the tax impact to MY PERSONAL POCKETBOOK will be?

YES. See the "Tax Impact Worksheet" that will accompany any eventual bond proposal.

The math is simple. The tax impact is typically up to 1/2 what a residential homeowner might expect, and up to 1/10th what an agricultural land owner might expect.....due to ROLLBACK and ASSESSED vs. MARKET values of property used.

Be informed. Be educated. Do not listen to gossip.

If someone is saying something that seems OUTRAGEOUS, it probably is.

What can impact the FUTURE tax levies and/or the district's ability to make future bond payments?

Voted G.O. Bonds:

Tax Levy RATE may go up if taxable valuation of property declines.

Tax Levy RATE may go down if taxable valuation of property increases.

PPEL Notes:

The levy is fixed at not more than \$1.34 regardless of borrowing or not borrowing. However, if a school borrows the "maximum" amount up to a \$1.34 levy and THEN property valuations decline the levy RATE may increase slightly.

Sales Tax Bonds:

Local resident student enrollment increases will bring the District more revenue, and vice versa.

Statewide retail sales increases may bring the District more revenue, and vice versa.

Statewide enrollment increases may bring the District less revenue, and vice versa.

*Various combinations of these moving parts may result in higher or lower total revenue

I don't have children in this District either because I'm not married and have no children, don't want to have children, or have already raised my children to adulthood. Why should I be concerned with the future of this District, and why should I pay to foot the bill of the improvements (if the community agrees that such improvements are desired)?

Simple: Because in Iowa every property owner or consumer paying sales tax pays for the construction of our schools. When you were 5-18 years old....someone else was paying for your school; your parents....but, also your grandparents, your neighbors, relatives and other community members regardless of whether they had school-aged children attending.

How is a tax levy calculated on property tax in Iowa?

See the tax impact worksheet. The math is simple. Don't let others or gossip allow you to be misinformed about how much a property tax increase may cost you personally; whether that may be for a school bond, a city bond, the general fund of the School, city or county or the community college. It all works the same way no matter where you live in Iowa.

Information Items

Winter Concert Updates

- See these listed at the start of this document.

River Valley Conference Update

- The following was developed by students during an RVC Leadership Day who were representing RVC schools.

The Students and Adults attending games or events will be held to these RVC Gold Standards

**Standards were developed*

- 1. Keep facilities clean*
- 2. Positively cheer for your team and not negatively toward your opponent or officials*
- 3. Positively promote the RVC teams and participants through media platforms*
- 4. Create a welcoming and positive environment for opposing teams and officials*

River Valley Conference Statement

**This statement is to be read by the announcer at the beginning of each game.*

The River Valley Conference encourages positive sportsmanship and behavior at our activities. What you say and do during the event reflects on your team, school, and community. Student Leaders during a Leadership day have developed 4 Gold standards to which students and adults should adhere to:

- 1. Keep facilities clean*
- 2. Positively cheer for your team and not negatively toward your opponent or officials*
- 3. Positively promote the RVC teams and participants through media platforms*
- 4. Create a welcoming and positive environment for opposing teams and officials*

Please enjoy the game.

Mid-Term Superintendent Review

- This will be at the end of the January 2023 meeting, and informal with no "official" paperwork (my "official" evaluation is in June typically). I will send board members a document over break or sooner.

Comments from Building Principals, Superintendent, and Board Members

The district had a Safety Assessment on December 13 on-site (the virtual assessment was last week). This is to gain funding to make improvements in the district in the areas of safety and security.

Meyer also shared the upcoming vote on using free/reduced lunch numbers as part of the classification process for district football. The IHSAA is having an

election with all members. This is designed to "equal the playing field" between districts based on SES level...in summary.

Adjourn

Next meeting is on January 9, 2023.

Snow Days

I received this from the Iowa Department of Education last week in regard to snow days and school closures, calendars, and other related items. I felt you may find it worthwhile if asked about making up snow days and other weather-related days (FYI - We count hours for students, not days - nearly all school districts do the same).

Snow Days and hours Guidance Revisited, To Close or Not to Close

As administrators you all know that there is no right way to cancel school - whether it's a late start, early out, or school closing altogether you will not make everyone happy. But now that school districts and accredited nonpublic schools have the option of choosing a school calendar based on days or based on hours hopefully this will provide you with more flexibility in making these difficult decisions. Now that you have more flexibility it's time to revisit our previous guidance to school districts and accredited nonpublic schools on SNOW DAYS/HOURS, make-up days/ hours, and releases for athletic tournaments. Remember, that SNOW DAYS/HOURS and makeup days/hours are only necessary to get to the minimum amount of instructional time required under Iowa Code section 256.7(19) which is 180 days of instruction or 1080 hours of instruction. If you have the minimum amount of days or hours you are not required to make up the time. However, making up hours or days even if not needed is sound educational practice.

Question: *May E-learning days be used toward the 1080 hours or 180 day minimum due to inclement weather?*

Answer: *No, this is not counted as instruction under Iowa Code. 281 IAC 12.1 (8) defines a day of school as a day during which the school or school district is in session and students are under the guidance and instruction of the instructional professional staff and an hour of school as an hour in which the school or school district is in session and students are under the guidance and instruction of the instructional professional staff.*

Question: *May a school district and accredited nonpublic school lengthen the school day to make up for days or hours missed as a result of inclement weather?*

Answer: *Days Calendar - No. A school days consist of a minimum of 6 hours of instructional time for all grades 1 through 12. Lengthening the day would not add to your days of school.*

Hours Calendar - Yes. A school district or an accredited nonpublic school may add hours or minutes of instruction onto the beginning of the day or the end of the day to make-up time.

Question: *May a school district or an accredited nonpublic school make up snow days or hours on weekends?*

Answer: *Yes. Whether or not you are on a days based calendar or an hours based calendar Iowa Code section 279.10 does not designate what days of the week are official "school days".*

Question: *A school district or an accredited nonpublic school has parent-teacher conferences planned on a Tuesday and Thursday evening yet to come in the school's calendar. Staff and students will also go to the school on Friday of that same*

week. May the district or school count the hours spent on parent-teacher conference Tuesday and Thursday night as another day of student instruction on Saturday (a fifth consecutive day, Tuesday through Saturday) -- even though staff and students would not attend school on Saturday?

Answer: Days Calendar - Yes. Iowa Code section 256.7(19)(b) provides for this exception as long as the five consecutive days equals 30 hours of student instruction. Remember, parent-teacher conference time counts as student instruction.

Hours Calendar -NA.

Question: May a school district or accredited nonpublic school add parent-teacher conference time that was not in the original school calendar and count that time toward student instructional days or instructional hours.

Answer: No, because those hours were not included in the schools approved calendar.

Question: May local school boards forgive snow make-up days or hours?

Answer: No, if the district/school is below the minimum of 180 days or 1080 hours. Yes, if the district/school is beyond the minimum without counting the days/hours missed. However, making up hours or days even if not needed is sound educational practice.

Question: May a school district or accredited nonpublic school get a waiver from the Department of Education to NOT make up snow days or hours.

Answer: No. The Department has no such authority.

Question: Must a school district or accredited nonpublic school make up days or hours when weather forces it to start late or let out early?

Answer: Days Calendar - No. Iowa Code section 256.7(19) states that a full day of instruction may be recorded if "emergency health or safety factors require the late arrival or early dismissal of students on a specific day." However, a local school board could decide voluntarily to make up the time that is lost by late starts and early dismissals. Making up these days - especially if a district or school has had more than a couple of them - is sound educational practice.

Hours Calendar - No. Under the hours calendar a district is not required to make up hours as long as they meet the minimum of 1080 hours. However, a local school board could decide voluntarily to make up the time that is lost by late starts and early dismissals. Making up these hours - especially if a district or school has had more than a couple of them - is sound educational practice.

Question: If "early bird" students come to school on what becomes a "snow day" but no other students are bused to the school, may a day or hour of student instruction be counted?

Answer: No. 281 IAC 12.1(10) states that "A day or hour of attendance shall be a day or hour during which students were present and under the guidance and instruction of the instructional professional staff. In addition, all grade levels of the school or school district must be operated and available for attendance by all students.

Question: Does a school district or accredited nonpublic school have to run the buses to count the day as a day of student instruction or an hour as an hour of student instruction?

Answer: Yes. Not only do the buses have to run, but students also need to be "under the guidance and instruction of the instructional professional staff." All grade levels of the school or school district must be operated and available for attendance by all students. This implies that students must be in classes for some period of time prior to early release. See 281 IAC 12.1(10) and Iowa Code section 285.1(8). OAG #93-11-8.

Question: Do seniors have to make up "snow days"?

Answer: This is a local decision. Iowa Code 279.10 states, "the school district or accredited nonpublic school may excuse a graduating senior who has met district or school requirements for graduation from attendance during the extended school calendar." NOTE, however, that rule 281-IAC 12.1(7) requires that there be a board policy to excuse seniors from making up "snow days."

Question: If a school district or accredited nonpublic school closes due to health reasons (e.g., influenza contagion), does it follow the "snow days" rules?

Answer: Days Calendar - Yes. Full days that are missed must be made up if the district does not have 180 days of instruction. If a school district or accredited nonpublic school has early dismissal or late start due to emergency health issues, the district may count the day as a full instructional day if on a days based calendar. Remember also that if just a classroom or attendance center is closed for emergency health or safety reasons, while the remainder of the district is in operation, the day may be counted as a day of school

Hours Calendar - Yes. Hours that are missed must be made up if the district does not have 1080 hours of instruction. If a school district or accredited nonpublic school has early dismissal or late start due to emergency health issues, the district may count the hours of attendance if on an hours based calendar. Remember also that if just a classroom or attendance center is closed for emergency health or safety reasons, while the remainder of the district is in operation, the hours may be counted as an hour of school.

Question: May a school district or accredited nonpublic school let out school for athletic tournaments and other competitions and still count the day as a day of student instruction or an hour as an hour of student instruction?

Answer: Days Calendar - Yes, but only if the district keeps each building open and available for attendance by all students, and students in all grade levels are "under the guidance and instruction of the instructional professional staff" as described in 281 IAC 12.1(8). The answer is "no" if an attendance center or district is closed.

Hours Calendar - Yes, but only if the district keeps each building open and available for attendance by all students, and students in all grade levels are "under the guidance and instruction of the instructional professional staff" as described in 281 IAC 12.1(8). The answer is "no" if an attendance center or district is closed.

Question: Can the Governor forgive snow days?

Answer: Under Iowa law, the Governor doesn't have the legal authority to forgive snow days. State law requires schools to hold class for a minimum of 1,080 hours or 180 school days per school year.

Question: Do school districts need to have a public hearing before making changes to the school calendar in order to meet 1080 hours or 180 days in the event of snow days?

Answer: Iowa Code section 279.10 requires that a School District hold a public hearing on any proposed calendar prior to adopting it. As such, a School District should also hold a public hearing on any proposed changes to the school calendar that are necessary to meet the minimum of 1080 hours or 180 days prior to its adoption. The reason for this is that it allows parents an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. A public hearing should provide notice and an opportunity to be heard. Districts may locally determine how to accomplish this.

Question: Do schools need to make-up preschool hours missed due to snow days?

Answer: This is a local determination. It is always good educational practice to make-up hours or days of instruction that are missed.