

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
March 7, 2024

MISSISSIPPI SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

- Q. Approval to modify district calendar for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind due to weather-related events

Due to the inclement winter weather and road conditions on January 16-17, 2024, the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB) are requesting approval to reduce the number of instructional days by two (i.e., from 180 to 178) due to the Governor's state of emergency in accordance with the provisions listed in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-63. Further, MSDB is requesting that administrative leave be approved for all staff and teachers in accordance with State Board Policy 99.2.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

July 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August 2023						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 2023						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2023						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2023						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Aug 1-4	Professional Development Days
Aug 7	First Day of School for Students
Sept 4	Labor Day Holiday
Sep 6	Progress Reports
Oct 6	Report Cards
Oct 9-10	Fall Break
Nov 8	Progress Reports
Nov 20-24	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 25-Jan 5	Winter Break
Jan 8	Professional Development Day
Jan 10	Report Cards
Jan 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday
Feb 7	Progress Reports
Feb 19	Presidents' Day Holiday
Mar 11-15	Spring Break
Mar 20	Report Cards
March 29-April 1	Easter Break
April 17	Progress Reports
May 13	Professional Development Day
May 17	Graduation
May 22	Report Cards
May 23	Last Day of School
May 24	Professional Development Day
May 27	Memorial Day

***Note:** School was closed on August 21st due to power and internet outages. The make-up day will be President's Day on February 19, 2024.

***Note:** Due to the ice storm and road conditions on January 16-17, 2024, the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB) is requesting approval to reduce the number of instructional days by two (i.e., from 180 to 178) due to the Governor's state of emergency. This request is in accordance with the provisions listed in the district's State Board of Education-approved 2023-2024 Operations Manual, state statutes §37-13-63 and §37-13-64, and State Board of Education Policy 99.2.

Staff Schedule

July 25	First Day for Nurse Supervisor & Counselors
August 1	First Day for 9 Month Staff
May 24	Last Day for 9 Month Staff
June 3	Last Day for Nurse Supervisor and Counselors

January 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March 2024						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						






April 2024						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Semester 1 Instructional Days - 91
 Semester 2 Instructional Days - 89
Total Instructional Days - 180
 Semester 1 Teacher Days - 95
 Semester 2 Teacher Days - 92
Total Teacher Days - 187

Semester 1 Professional Development Days - 4
 Semester 2 Professional Development Days - 3
Total Professional Development Days - 7

 School Closed	 Professional Development (no school for students)	 Progress Reports/Report Cards
 Classes resume	 First and Last days of school	



Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

Superintendent of Education • Jeremy E. Stinson, Ph.D.

Principal, Mississippi School for the Deaf • Tara C. Brister, Ed.D.

Principal, Mississippi School for the Blind • Eddie L. Spann, Ed.S.



Justification - Administrative Leave for MSDB Employees

Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind was closed due to winter weather on January 16-17, 2024, after Governor Tate Reeves declared a state of emergency on January 14, 2024. The closure was due to icy road conditions in the Metro area after the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on January 15th. The roads in the Metro area were passable for staff on January 18-19, 2024, but many of the roads on which buses travel were not, so MSDB students participated in virtual learning while the staff worked in-person both days. In addition, most of the MSB dorms and the Lifeshare House were flooded due to bursted sprinkler heads, and the City of Jackson was beginning to have low water pressure incidents, which solidified our decision for students to finish the week virtually.

Due to the ice storm and road conditions on January 16-17, 2024, the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB) is requesting approval to reduce the number of instructional days by two (i.e., from 180 to 178) due to the Governor's state of emergency. This request is in accordance with the provisions listed in the Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-63 and State Board Policy 99.2.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi will be impacted by extreme freezing temperatures and severe winter weather, including snow and freezing rain beginning Sunday, January 14, 2024, and continuing throughout the week, and thus state assistance may be necessary to support statewide local governments' response and recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, the extreme freezing temperatures and severe winter weather pose a threat to the life and safety of the residents of the impacted areas of the state, as well as their property; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the health and safety of the residents and the protection of their property within the affected areas, and in the public interest, all steps should be taken to protect people and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Mississippi Constitution and Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(17), and in the public interest and for the general welfare, do hereby proclaim a State of Emergency to exist in the areas of the State of Mississippi affected by, or areas that may be affected by, these extreme freezing temperatures and severe winter weather. The provisions of this proclamation shall exist and remain in effect until such time as this threat to public safety shall cease to exist as prescribed by Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(17).

FURTHER, all agencies of the State of Mississippi shall discharge their emergency responsibilities as deemed necessary as set forth in the State of Mississippi's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 14th day of January, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-eighth.

Tate Reeves
TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

JUSTIA

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2020 Mississippi Code

Title 37 - Education

Chapter 13 - Curriculum; School Year and Attendance

School Year and Attendance

§ 37-13-63. Minimum length of school term

Universal Citation: MS Code § 37-13-63 (2020)

1. Except as otherwise provided, all public schools in the state shall be kept in session for at least one hundred eighty (180) days in each scholastic year.
2. If the 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 scholastic year as contemplated due to an enemy attack, a man-made, technological or natural disaster or extreme weather emergency in which the Governor has declared a disaster or state of emergency under the laws of this state or the President of the United States has declared an emergency or major disaster to exist in this state, the school board may notify the State Department of Education of the disaster or weather emergency and submit a plan for altering the school term. If the State Board of Education finds the disaster or extreme weather emergency to be the cause of the school not operating for the contemplated school term and that such school was in a school district covered by the Governor's or President's disaster or state of emergency declaration, it may permit that school board to operate the schools in its district for less than one hundred eighty (180)

days; however, in no instance of a declared disaster or state of emergency under the provisions of this subsection shall a school board receive payment from the State Department of Education for per pupil expenditure for pupils in average daily attendance in excess of ten (10) days.

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Part 3 Chapter 99: State Schools

Rule 99.2 School Calendar Approval and Modification

The State Board of Education shall approve the academic calendars for state schools.

In order to facilitate response to natural disasters or other emergencies, adjustments to SBE-approved calendars may be made with the approval of the State Superintendent of Education or his/her designee, with subsequent ratification by the State Board of Education at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-1-3* (Adopted 8/2020)