



Policy & Legal Services
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To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Doug Larson
Re: Request to the State Superintendent
Date: February 28, 2019

As you know, schools were closed in Granite School District on February 6, 2019 because of severe winter weather. The District, pursuant to Utah State Board of Education rules, may request a one-time waiver from the 180-day student instruction requirement directly from the State Superintendent due to excessive snow, inclement weather, or other emergency. Teacher attendance is required on a make-up day under teachers' contract, but the request for waiver is intended to allow the District discretion on the best use of the make-up day scheduled for May 24, 2014. Under the same rules, local school districts are allowed to designate up to 32 hours of professional learning for teachers, but only eight hours were scheduled for this purpose during the 2018-2019 school year in our District. Therefore, it is proposed the District use that make-up day for eight additional hours of teacher professional learning rather than for student instruction time, subject to the waiver being granted. The Board must approve a request before it can be submitted to the State Superintendent. For convenience, you will find a draft request attached for your consideration.



Granite School District

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March 6, 2019

VIA EMAIL

Superintendent Sydnee Dickson
250 East 500 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-3204
Sydnee.Dickson@schools.utah.gov

Re: Request for Waiver

Dear Dr. Dickson,

This letter is intended as a formal request from the Granite School District Board of Education to you, the State Superintendent, for a waiver under Utah Admin. Code R277-419-12. You will remember last month, a late-night snowstorm led to school closures in all of the Salt Lake Valley school districts on February 6, 2019. Under Utah Admin. Code R277-419-12, the State Superintendent has authority to grant “one waiver [from the 180-day student instruction requirement], per school year, per school for the school to close due to excessive snow, inclement weather, or other emergency without Board approval.” *Id.*

In addition to the request above, local school boards are allowed to use up to 32 hours of student instructional time for teacher professional learning. Granite School District scheduled eight hours for professional learning during the 2018-2019 school year. Granite School District has a make up day scheduled on the calendar for May 24, 2019. Rather than use that day for instructional time, however, Granite School District Board of Education also respectfully requests to use the make up day to provide eight additional hours of professional learning for teachers. We believe the use of the day for professional learning for teachers would maximize the use of the time as well as allowing teachers to fulfill their contractual obligations.

The Granite School District Board of Education has considered this request in an open board meeting and has voted to request this waiver. Thank you for your kind consideration, and if you desire more information, please contact me directly or you may contact Doug Larson, Director of Policy and Legal Services.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martin W. Bates
Superintendent
Granite School District

DRAFT