
RSAI Support for Waiver of Mandated School Days/Hours

1 message

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RSAI Legislative Update

Dear RSAI School Leaders:

The message below was sent earlier today to Linda Fandel at the Governor's office and education committee and legislative leaders regarding RSAI's support of SAI's proposed waiver authority for the Governor to reduce the number of instructional days/hours required to finish the school year. As you know, the Governor last night suggested schools close for 30 days as now more than 30 other states have done. That may not be the end of it as COVID-19 moves through Iowa.

This statement will be posted on the RSAI website later today, but I wanted to make sure you had a copy of the statement. Legislators are meeting today to discuss emergency provisions and transitions of power as they prepare to close down for a 30-day hiatus. Please feel free to share with any of your local legislators as you see fit.

Thanks for all you do to keep your students and staff safe. We will keep you posted of further legislative developments as they unfold.

Good morning Leaders,

The Rural School Advocates of Iowa, now representing 111 Iowa school districts, echos what you have heard from other school leaders requesting relief of mandated hours or days of school which would otherwise have to be made up well into the summer, due to school closures intended to stem the community spread of COVID-19.

We know there are difficult ripple effects through our communities that we will have to attend to during this difficult time; figuring out how to feed students who depend on free and reduced price breakfast and lunch, providing virtual learning options for those districts that have 1:1 capacity (and with that, figuring out how all students have equal access), and many, many others. We will do our best to address all of those concerns as they unfold with the help of our caring staff and others in our communities.

We encourage your to support the School Administrators of Iowa policy suggestion to implement a tiered approach to waiver of mandated time requirements.

Thanks for the hard work ahead of you in meeting the need of Iowans in this challenging time.

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