

Emergency School Closures: Laws & Guidance

Emergency School Closure Requirements

Provisions Included in WAC 392-129

- Districts **must** meet the average annual hours of instruction requirement of 1,027 hours (or 1,000 hours for K–8 districts).
- Districts must demonstrate reasonable effort prior to OSPI granting a waiver. “Reasonable effort” includes:
 - Extension of the school year to and through June 14.
 - Use of scheduled vacation days and foreseeable school closure days to meet the requirements for 180 days and 1,027 hours.
 - In no case shall a district be considered to have met reasonable effort requirements unless they have made up at least three school days.
- Reasonable effort does not apply to days missed under a Governor’s Proclamation of Emergency.

School Closure Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a deadline for requesting a waiver?

No. However, districts should apply with enough time to make scheduling adjustments accordingly (if necessary).

Is there a date in statute past which school cannot be held?

No. If districts need to hold school into July to meet the requirement for minimum average annual hours of instruction, nothing prohibits that from occurring.

Can late start or early release be counted as instructional time?

No. Regularly scheduled late start/early release hours are not counted as instructional hours.

How do I submit a waiver?

Districts can submit a waiver by submitting a letter addressed to T.J. Kelly, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), to Jackie Hansman, Executive Assistant to the CFO, at jackie.hansman@k12.wa.us. The letter must contain the elements required in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 392-129-125.

