



Administrative Service Center

MACOMB COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #185

323 WEST WASHINGTON • MACOMB, ILLINOIS 61455

PHONE: 309/833-4161

FAX: 309/836-2133

Patrick Mark Twomey, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Re: ACADEMIC INCLEMENT WEATHER DAY

Date: January 29, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We will pilot a new strategy tomorrow concerning inclement weather days and how we can better manage our school calendar. Your student(s) will bring home class work that is to be completed during our day off tomorrow due to the severe cold expected to hit the area. Please be sure to read the teacher's notes and/or discuss with your child the information about the work and how to contact the teacher should you have any questions. During this pilot, which we expect to continue through the rest of this school year, when there is no school due to inclement weather, your child will be responsible to complete the assigned work for that day.

Please read the following guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education on what constitutes a day of attendance for instructional days interrupted due to weather:

Signed into law on August 31, 2017, Public Act 100-0465, also known as the Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success Act, made sweeping changes to education funding in Illinois. While making changes to state financial support to schools, the Act also repealed Section 18-8.05 of the School Code, which required an instructional day to be a minimum of five hours. As such, there is no current statutory number of hours or minutes that constitutes an instructional day.

Attendance may be counted when students are engaged and participating in learning anywhere and anytime. Students who are engaged in the learning process for any portion of an instructional day may be counted for purposes of attendance. Students will be counted as absent when they have not engaged in learning as defined by the district, for a given instructional day.

Districts are encouraged to make efforts to maintain the continuity of the learning environment during such interrupted days by assigning work to be completed at home and will no longer be required to make up instructional days interrupted due to reasons beyond their control (e.g., weather-related issues), provided student learning has occurred. Therefore it is imperative that you communicate with your student and everyone understands the expectations for the day.

This is our first attempt at adopting this new practice and there will be some bumps in the road for sure. We are currently working on a plan that will provide us a few more opportunities to improve this process yet this academic year.

Please take extra precautions to keep your family safe during this extreme weather!

Sincerely,

Patrick M. Twomey