

John R. Kasich, Governor Stan W. Heffner Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

July 15, 2011

Re: Makeup of Excess Calamity Days via Online Classroom Lessons

Dear Colleagues.

House Bill 153 contains statutory authority for a board of education of a school district, the governing authority of a chartered nonpublic school or the governing authority of a community school that is not an Internet- or computer-based community school to require students to complete online lessons under certain circumstances. The specific provisions are located in Ohio Revised Code (ORC) §3313.88, which are posted here for nonpublic schools.

All districts and schools that wish to utilize this authority are required to submit a plan to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) on or before Aug. 1 of each school year. We realize that this year's Aug. 1 submission deadline may be difficult to meet for many districts and schools. July board of education meetings may already have taken place and obtaining written consent from the teacher's employee representative are among potential barriers faced at the local level.

Therefore, for the 2011-2012 school year <u>only</u>, each district or school that desires to utilize the online option should submit a *preliminary* plan of compliance with the provisions of ORC§3313.88 on or before **Aug. 1**. This preliminary plan should outline the requirements delineated in ORC§3313.88, but the plan does not need to be officially adopted by the local board or governing authority, or signed by the teacher's employee representative. A *final* plan, including all necessary approvals and signatures, should be submitted to ODE on or before **Sept. 1**. Plans for the 2011-2012 school year submitted after Sept. 1 will not be accepted.

The submission process for plans for using online lessons to make up excess calamity days should not be confused with the Operational Waiver of the Minimum School Year, "Innovative Educational Pilot Program," pursuant to ORC §3302.07.

Questions regarding the makeup of excess calamity days via online classroom lessons may be submitted to onlinecalamitydays@ode.state.oh.us. Preliminary plans and final plans also may be directed to this email address.

Thank you for your continued service to Ohio's students.

Stan W. Heffner

Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction