



Biddeford School Department

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Dear Biddeford Families,

I am writing today to update you on changes to the school calendar. State law requires that students in grade K-11 complete 175 student days each and every year. That same law also grants schools flexibility on how to "make up" snow days in unusual circumstances. The School Committee has voted to make the following changes to compensate for the 7 snow days we've had this year. We have filed a request with the Commissioner of Education, and anticipate his approval. While we mulled waiting to inform you of our plan until final approval, we also know that families are anxious to learn about what shape the end of the school year will take. The School Committee has elected to:

- Eliminate the 2.5 hour early releases on April 5 and May 3 (+1 school day)
- Add 1-hour per day for the weeks of April 3-7 and April 10-13 (+2 school days)*
- Develop a Saturday Senior Community Service Day for 3.5 hours (+1 day for seniors)

Additionally, the School Committee has previously voted to convert March 24 (previously a professional development day for instructors) into a regular day of classes for students.

Current last day of school:

- **K-11 Students: June 16 (half day for students/staff)**
- **Teachers: June 19 - Professional Development Day**

End Times for Schools April 3 -April 13

JFK	BPS	BIS	BMS	BHS/COT
3:20	3:25	3:35	4:10	3:40

***Bus drop off times be 1 hour later than normal on these days.**

**** Elementary school students will be provided with an afternoon snack.**

These changes close the gap between K-11 attendance and graduation, allow us to work collaboratively and efficiently with the Center of Technology's sending districts, and honor families' plans ranging from weddings to vacations to summer jobs.

We've encouraged our principals and instructional staff to give thoughtful consideration to how they will utilize the extended school days. Modifications to the high and middle school schedules are forthcoming; we've asked our teachers to moderate homework loads for students at all grade levels. We are grateful to our teachers, bus drivers, coaches, maintenance and custodial staff, and all of those who help make our schools run for their flexibility and professionalism in light of this challenge.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Ray
Superintendent of Schools