



## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### NEWS RELEASE

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## **NON-TRADITIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS APPROVED FOR 13 DISTRICTS**

(FRANKFORT, KY) – Students in some Kentucky school districts won't have to make up all of the class time lost to this year's inclement winter weather. Commissioner of Education Terry Holliday approved requests for non-traditional instructional days from the 13 districts that participated in the non-traditional instructional days program this school year.

"Once again Mother Nature wreaked havoc with school calendars in Kentucky," Commissioner Holliday said. "Many of our districts had to cancel classes due to extreme snow and cold. That not only disrupted instruction but also meant students and teachers had to make up class time to meet the minimum instructional time required by law. However, in districts approved for the non-traditional instructional day program, students were able to carry on with learning, most through online lessons and a few with project-based learning, so instruction continued uninterrupted. From all accounts, the program was a success," he said.

All 173 school districts were eligible to apply for the non-traditional instruction waivers last year due to a change in state law; previously only districts that missed more than 20 school days were eligible. House Bill 211, which revised KRS 158.070(9), allowed the education commissioner to grant up to 10 student attendance days to districts that had an approved alternative instruction plan. The law also required the district to prove how teaching and learning would not be negatively impacted.

Districts approved for the program had to submit an application that described plans for learning while school was not in session. The applications were scored on a rubric that evaluated teaching methods, equal access to the lessons for students without Internet access, staff deployment, community engagement and assessment of student learning. Under the provisions of the waiver, a district could count up to 10 non-traditional instruction days as regular attendance days in its school calendar and not have to make them up.

This spring, the districts submitted documentation of student and faculty participation as well as student learning outcomes for the missed days. The Department of Education then determined the number of regular attendance days granted to the district under the provisions of each district's waiver.

(more)

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**2014-15 Non-traditional Instructional Day Program\***

<b>District</b>	<b>Non-traditional days approved</b>	<b>Student Participation Average*</b>	<b>Staff Participation Average</b>
Boyle Co.	5 days	93.1 percent	100 percent
Corbin Ind.	6 days	97.5 percent	100 percent
Grant Co.	5 days	76 percent	96.4 percent
Jessamine Co.	10 days	80.6 percent	98.5 percent
Johnson Co.	10 days	93.0 percent	100 percent
Lawrence Co.	10 days	91.9 percent	98.4 percent
Leslie Co.	8 days	91.5 percent	95.4 percent
Owsley Co.	10 days	91.5 percent	100 percent
Pike Co.	4 days	96.5 percent	89.7 percent
Taylor Co.	9 days	96.5 percent	99.9 percent
Todd Co.	8 days	96.4 percent	100 percent
Washington Co.	5 days	89.3 percent	95.9 percent
Wolfe Co.	10 days	91.9 percent	93.5 percent

\* The way participation rates were calculated varied among districts, so should not be compared.

The Kentucky Department of Education is now accepting applications to participate in the non-traditional instructional day program for the 2015-16 school year. For new districts that wish to participate, the application deadline is May 1; for returning districts, the deadline to apply is May 15.

More information on the non-traditional instructional day program is available on the KDE [website](#).

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