



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



SERIES: 2011-2012
CIRCULAR LETTER: C-6

TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Stefan Pryor, Commissioner of Education

DATE: November 15, 2011

SUBJECT: School Closures and the School Calendar

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stefan Pryor".

The State Department of Education is aware of the highly disruptive conditions created by October's snowstorm. The Department issued a circular letter on January 31, 2011 on school closures and the school calendar which provides a brief overview of the legal considerations regarding the school calendar and modification to it. <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/circ/circ10-11/c9.pdf>

With the winter season approaching, the Department remains cautious about prematurely considering changes in the 180 day requirement. Districts are expected, as in years past, to make all efforts at the local level to meet the mandated minimum number of school days by June 30. These efforts may include conducting school on permissible holidays and previously scheduled vacation days. Only once all such efforts have been exhausted would the Department expect local school districts to seek waivers, if viewed necessary, of the 180 day requirement.

Therefore, the Department will conduct a careful review and analysis of any waiver requests on a case by case basis once a district has concluded and asserted that 180 days of school is not possible under its circumstances. It is our hope we will not have to go down this road as we are ever mindful of the negative impact of lost time upon our students.

If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs at 860-713-6520.

Thank you.