

Memorial Day – Bad Weather Make-Up Day FAQs

Northwest ISD appreciates concerns from parents and community members regarding the second bad weather make-up day on Monday, May 25. The district wants to assure parents that their concerns are heard. This was not an easy decision to make. Much thought was put into this decision based on the guidelines from the Texas Education Agency given to local districts. Please use the following frequently asked questions to help you understand more about inclement weather make-up days:

“I thought you were applying for a waiver!?”

The district is applying for a waiver. After talking with the Texas Education Agency, Northwest ISD was informed the district must use two make-up days for inclement weather prior to requesting a waiver from the state for any additional make-up days. Northwest ISD already used one make-up day that was previously built into the school calendar (Friday, April 3). The district must make up another day of school before asking for a waiver from the state for the third missed day of school.

“When was the other bad weather make-up day that was built into the calendar used?”

The district had two bad weather make-up days built into the calendar. The first day was President’s Day, Monday, February 16. Since the district had not yet closed school for inclement weather, this day was observed, and students were not in school.

“Why was a bad weather make-up day built into the calendar for February?”

In previous years, many of the ice storms have been in December, January, and early February. (Last school year, the majority of the school closings were in December 2013, with an additional delayed start and close in early February 2014.) The district is looking to amend the 2015-2016 school calendar that was approved in December 2013. This amendment would include revisions to the current bad weather-make up days, moving all make up days to fall in April or May after any possibility of inclement weather.

“Why can’t the district take the two early release days scheduled for June 4 and 5 and make them full days?”

The Texas Education Agency requires a make-up day to be at least seven hours in length. Therefore, the state will not grant a request to have an early release day on a make-up day.

“Did Memorial Day have to be selected as the bad weather make-up day?”

The state does not prohibit a district from scheduling a make-up day on a day such as a weekend or national holiday. In looking at the school calendar and the remaining days in the school year, Memorial Day or a Saturday was the only option given to the district by the state. TEA did inform Northwest ISD other districts across the state have made a similar choice for their make-up day. Saturday is not a good option as well. Saturday would only give families one day on the weekend and could potentially interfere with weekend family commitments, clubs, teams, sports leagues, etc.

“Why didn’t the district add on days at the end of the school year?”

This was a carefully made decision by Northwest ISD. Ultimately, Northwest ISD has a strong desire to place kids first in all decisions made. With summer school programs, graduations, final exams already in place, adding a day to the end of the calendar year in June was not the best choice. Students and teachers begin summer school the following day. Because of that, adding an additional day of school to the end of the school calendar year would not be accommodating to students or staff. An additional day of school prior to exams gives students one more opportunity in class to study and prepare.

“Will there really be any instruction on Memorial Day?”

Absolutely! Campus principals have been discussing ways to incorporate learning opportunities and activities that encompass patriotism and discuss the importance of this symbolic day. Principals have discussed the possibility of assemblies, family picnics, etc. More information will be available at your child’s campus and will be specific to each school.

“Do I have to send my child to school?”

This is a regular day of instruction, so all attendance guidelines will be in place.