

## OVERVIEW

Per [Section 10-19](#) of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/10-19], *each school board shall annually prepare a calendar for the school term, specifying the opening and closing dates and providing a minimum term of at least 185 days to ensure 176 days of actual pupil attendance, computable under Section 10-19.05.*

The Public School Calendar is a web-based system accessible via IWAS for districts and Regional Offices of Education (ROEs)/Intermediate Service Centers (ISCs) to enter and transmit proposed, amended, and final calendars for approval. Each ROE/ISC is assigned primary approval of all district calendars, including any changes. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approves regional office alternative school program calendars as well as certain types of days in district calendars.

This guidance outlines important information for districts and ROEs/ISCs on how to structure a calendar for the school term that comports with all legal requirements and how to access and navigate the Public School Calendar System.

### Election Day Holidays

Public Act 103-0467 created a new state holiday – the 2024 General Election Day. As a consequence, Nov. 5, 2024, was deemed a legal school holiday on which no school activities could take place. PA 103-0467 applied to the 2024 General Election Day only. There is currently no law prohibiting school activities on any upcoming midterm or general election day.

Notifications will be sent out, and this guidance document will be updated, if any future legislation creates a new election day state holiday. ISBE recommends that districts plan for alternative scenarios to make up the attendance day in the event that the 2026 Midterm Election Day (Nov. 3, 2026) is designated as a legal school holiday.

### E-Learning and Emergency Days

E-Learning Days may only be used when an Emergency Day would otherwise be appropriate; however, using an E-Learning Day does not remove a Proposed Emergency Day from the district's calendar. A district that has an approved e-learning program must utilize all five E-Learning Days in addition to all Proposed Emergency Days before ISBE will consider approving Act of God Days.

Every effort should be made to make up any scheduled instructional days when instruction was not provided for any reason. ISBE looks closely at requests for Act of God Days and may reach out to Regional Offices of Education/Intermediate Service Centers and school districts for additional information when a high number of Act of God Days have been requested.

### Lincoln's Birthday Reminder

Illinois School Code defines the school holidays, and it specifies that Lincoln's Birthday is the official school holiday and not Presidents Day. A district may take Presidents Day off by coding it as a Not in Attendance (NIA) day. All the school holidays are prepopulated in the system and changing a day that is not an official school holiday to a holiday code will result in a red error message being displayed and the "Submit" button not showing up at the bottom of the page.

### Technical Support

Questions pertaining to the Public School Calendar should be directed to: [schoolcalendars@isbe.net](mailto:schoolcalendars@isbe.net).