

Issaquah School District #411
Issaquah, Washington

RESOLUTION 1046

A resolution requesting the Washington State Board of Education grant the Issaquah School District a 3-year waiver from the minimum one hundred eighty-day school requirement of the Basic Education Program requirements.

WHEREAS, students are required to be in attendance for 180 school days; and

WHEREAS, The Issaquah School District is requesting a renewal of the State Board of Education waiver allowing a reduction of two (2) school days for the purpose of conducting elementary parent and teacher conferences; and

WHEREAS, for the Issaquah School District to reach our goal of every student meeting standard on state required assessments, we must garner parent support and keep them apprised of their child's progress and communicate ways for them to provide additional support in the home. Research shows a direct correlation between parent engagement and student success and we know that getting parents engaged in their students' learning community and partnering with our teachers when their children are in elementary school is the best way to keep them engaged throughout their entire K-12 public school experience. We will monitor parent participation in conferencing with a goal of 100% and continue to work to that end; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the waiver is to maintain our current conference schedule which minimizes the number of consecutive half days required to carry out parent/teacher conferences. Without a waiver our elementary schools would have to conduct three half days of school in the fall for parent/teacher conferencing. In order to maintain high quality instruction and avoid higher rates of absenteeism on these days, we would prefer to have one and one half days of conferencing as opposed to three half days (combined with our current early release Wednesday schedule, this would give us two full days for conferencing). Whether one and one half days of conferences, or three half days, the number of instructional hours impacted is the same; the instructional time under the waiver is however clustered in a much more productive manner. Given one and one half days (two, with our combined Wednesday early release) for conferences, the district would still meet the required 1,000 hours of instructional time required by the state as this schedule has no impact on overall instructional hours.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Issaquah School District requests the State Board of Education grant a waiver for the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 school years to reduce the number of school days by two (2) in each of those school years. The District assures the annual average 1,000 hours of instructional hour offerings (RCW 28A.150.220) will be met at the elementary level with the approval of this waiver.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of Directors of the Issaquah School District No. 411, King County, Washington at an open public meeting held on January 14, 2015 with the following directors being present and voting:

Board President

Director

Director

Director

Director

Attest:

Ron Thiele, Secretary
Board of Directors