

SOUTH WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Kate M. Carter
Superintendent of Schools
(860) 291-1205

Sheryl L. Mortensen
*Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction*
(860) 291-1210

Colin J. McNamara
*Assistant Superintendent
Personnel and Administration*
(860) 291-1215

Chris M. Chemerka
Director of Finance & Operations
(860) 291-1260

D R E A M . A C H I E V E . I N S P I R E .

March 12, 2018

Dear South Windsor Schools families:

As you may be aware, South Windsor Public Schools has already had seven "snow days" this year. Per board policy, make-up days due to school cancellations shall be identified in the school calendar. The 2017-2018 calendar has identified seven (7) emergency school closure days in June. The calendar also indicates that if more than seven school cancellations occur, the April vacation will be reduced. Shortening April vacation is largely unpopular and disruptive to students, families, and staff who have been planning on this break. While shortening April vacation may be unavoidable at times, when it can be avoided we try to do so. Thus, we have identified a creative solution that will assist us in our efforts to preserve the April break.

The staff professional development day scheduled for Tuesday, March 20th will be cancelled and replaced with an early release student day. March 20th was originally scheduled as a Professional Development Day for staff, similar to the professional development that occurs on the November election day each year. By cancelling the full-day professional development and instituting a student day, we will further protect April vacation from being disrupted. Students will be dismissed early according to the district's early dismissal schedule, and staff will remain to participate in professional development for the remainder of the day. You will receive a follow-up email from your child's principal with reminders regarding the dismissal times for your school. Bus transportation and food services will be provided in the same manner as a typical early release day.

We have heard from numerous students, parents and staff who are concerned about the possible reduction of April vacation and we empathize with those who made travel plans some time ago. We hope this effort to keep April vacation intact will be viewed as a proactive measure that better meets the needs of students, families, and staff.

Please note that Mother Nature will have the last word and I cannot guarantee that the remainder of March (or even the month of April) won't bring more school cancellations. On a brighter note, the days are now sunnier and longer as we moved the clocks forward this past weekend.

We look forward to seeing your children on Tuesday, March 20. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and *Think Spring!*

Sincerely,



Kate Carter, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools