

February 18, 2019

Dear Parents:

Thank you for your overwhelming response to our request for feedback on your preferred days to make up two of the five snow days we had thus far this winter. As a result of everyone's input, the Ripon Area School District **WILL HAVE SCHOOL on Friday, February 22, and Monday, April 22, 2019.**

We understand that families may have made plans already for those days. If your student will not be attending school on those days please notify your child's school so we know they are safe with you. It is important to know that if your child is not able to attend on either of these days they will be marked as EXCUSED WEATHER-RELATED ABSENCES so the days will not count towards their total days absent for truancy purposes.

Based on the 777 responses of which 77% were parents and 13% teachers, 76% preferred Friday, February 22 and Monday, April 22 as opposed to 21% for Monday, June 10 and Tuesday, June 11, while 3% had no preference. Of the 223 comments received, the overwhelming comment of survey participants was "Thank you for asking for our input." Others inquired about using Late Starts in exchange for instructional minutes. Unfortunately, Late Starts cannot be exchanged for instructional minutes because those are professional development minutes per teacher contracts.

We know that this change greatly affects families and staff, so your partnership in making this decision is truly appreciated and of great value to us. We also want to convey our appreciation for everyone's understanding and flexibility to find the best solution to address the need to make up snow days.

Your Superintendent,

Mary Whitrock