



Memo

To: School Systems under Rule 10
From: Decua Jean-Baptiste, Ed.D., Director of Accreditation
Date: January 25, 2024
Topic: **Meeting instructional hour requirements in Rule 10, Section 003.06.**

Nebraska's unpredictable weather and other unforeseen circumstances can affect a school system's ability to meet the minimum instructional hour requirements. To help ensure compliance, school systems are encouraged to build additional instructional time into their academic calendars beyond the minimum requirements.

If a school district is at risk of falling short of the required instructional hours, the following options may be considered:

1. **Extend the School Day**

Add instructional minutes to the beginning and/or end of the school day to recover lost instructional time.

2. **Add Instructional Days**

Revise the school calendar to include additional instructional days.

3. **Utilize Remote Learning**

Remote learning may count toward instructional hour requirements when all of the following conditions are met:

- 1) The instructional period is measurable.
- 2) The instruction is provided to students.
- 3) Learning opportunities are available and accessible to all students.
- 4) Instruction is provided by a certificated educator.

Please note that not all remote or online learning activities qualify toward instructional hour requirements.

Affidavit Option

Rule 10, Section 003.06 allows school systems to submit an affidavit when the minimum instructional hour requirements cannot be met due to:

- Epidemic illness,
- Severe weather conditions, or
- Destruction of a school facility.

Use the affidavit process only as a last resort. Whenever possible, students should have opportunities to receive the full instructional time needed to support their education.