

# East Washington School Corporation



*"All for one and one for all"*

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February 17, 2014

Dear East Washington Families:

As of Friday, February 14, 2014, our students had missed 14 instructional days this school year due to snow, extreme wind chill, and/or icing conditions. The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) has waived making up two of those days (January 6 and 7, 2014). On February 11, our School Board approved making April 25 a student attendance day instead of a teacher only work day.

In addition to this, the IDOE intends to allow schools to qualify for additional "conditional waivers." These are waivers that may be earned by adding instructional time to the current school day length. Six hours of additional time earns one waived day. The IDOE requires School Board approval to extend the time to be included in a waiver request that will be submitted to the IDOE at the end of the year. This approval was given by our Board during its February 11 meeting. The board approved surveying our parents and staff to determine which option you prefer the district do for making up the lost instructional days: (1) add full instructional days to the end of the school calendar, OR (2) add one hour of instructional time to the end of the school day between February 24 – March 21, 2014. The Board approved the option that receives a majority vote would be the plan we follow.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of how to make up lost instructional days. The option that received a majority vote was to add one hour of instructional time to the end of the school day between February 24 – March 21, 2014. We are encouraged by this opportunity to adjust our instructional schedule in order to provide the best preparation time possible for our students to be successful with their spring assessments (ISTEP+, IREAD, ECA, and AP for examples) and to provide necessary instructional time that will reduce the number of "make-up" days at the end of the school year.

A plan for the extended day schedule has been developed and will be implemented beginning next Monday. Building level administrators will be adjusting the daily schedules to be developmentally appropriate for elementary, middle, and high school students. Our food service department will also be providing free, healthy snacks for students.

### **Extended Day Student Schedule**

### **Monday, February 24 – Friday, March 21, 2014**

Elementary School	8:10 AM – 3:45 PM
Middle School	8:10 AM – 3:56 PM
High School	8:10 AM – 4:00 PM

I would encourage you to contact your school administrators if you have specific questions regarding any scheduling conflicts you may anticipate. Should we have a two-hour delay, school would begin at 10:10 AM and still end at the times listed above during the extended day schedule.

Should we not have any further cancellation days, our last student day would be on May 29 with graduation remaining on June 1. If we experience more cancellations, we would need to add more days to the extended day schedule after spring break to account for six hours of added time for each missed day.

Respectfully,

Steve Darnell  
Superintendent