

## **School Calamity Days and Instructional Time**

Ohio tracks required instructional time using hours, not “days.” Because of this, Southern Local School District is not currently required to add additional days/hours to the end of the school year as long as we meet the state’s minimum instructional-hour requirements.

To provide flexibility in the event of weather or other closures, Southern Local’s calendar is built with extra instructional hours. This creates a cushion so that if we must close school for allowable circumstances, we have built-in flexibility before needing to extend the school year.

A common question is why Southern Local does not use an Online Makeup Hours Plan (what many families remember as “blizzard bags”).

Southern Local has implemented a Blended Learning Model, meaning students receive instruction through in-person learning and the possibility of online/non-computer learning opportunities as part of our instructional program.

Under Ohio law and state guidance, schools using a blended learning model are not eligible to use an Online Makeup Hours Plan for closures. In other words, districts/schools cannot operate as blended learning *and* use the online makeup-hours plan option.