



Dr. Rodney Thompson

May 23, 2014

Mr. Ted Pitts
Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor

Dear Mr. Pitts:

On behalf of the Berkeley County School District, I am writing this letter in regards to bill H5253 regarding the 2013-2014 instructional calendar and the make-up days scheduled due to inclement weather.

Please note that the district's Board of Education and I took several steps to meet the legal requirement in making up the missed time. The Board of Education approved using two days which were not previously scheduled as instructional days—April 21 and June 2—as full make-up days for all students. In addition, two days—March 21 and May 30—which had been previously scheduled as half days for our elementary and middle schools were made into full days. Similarly, for high schools, the formerly-half days of May 29 and May 30 were approved as full days of instruction for these students.

By extending our school year further, it places great burden on our parents and our finances. The make-up days of June 2 and 3 would occur during and after our high school graduations. We continue to hear concerns from parents about the waste of tax dollars to run buses and serve meals.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have, and I ask for your support in addressing these concerns.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Berkeley County children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rodney Thompson", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Dr. Rodney Thompson
Superintendent