



# The BOARD REPORT

February 3, 2026 • Issue 34

## Two instructional days restored to calendar

The Board voted to reinstate two instructional days to the 2025-26 school calendar, approving February 13 and February 16 as regular school days.

The decision was made to provide additional flexibility following extended weather-related closures and to help ensure the district can complete the school year without extending into June. For more on the discussion, see [Page 2](#).

[VIEW NEW 2025-26 CALENDARS](#)

## Students take center stage

The meeting opened with a presentation from members of the Superintendent Student Advisory Council, a group of GRC student leaders who serve as a liaison between the student body, district administration, and the Board of Education.

This year, the council has focused on self-leadership and applying leadership skills through collaborative projects aimed at strengthening student culture, staff culture, and community connections.

Several students presented personal leadership reflections based on the district's Portrait of a Clark County Learner framework. All Advisory Council members have gone through a leadership course this year based on the Portrait competencies with local leader Mike McCormick and other community volunteers.

Superintendent Howard thanked the students and families for their participation, noting the impact of student leadership on district decision-making.

"They bring light to my day and allow me to do the things that are more difficult, because I know the why," Howard said.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 24 - 6pm**

### NOTABLE & QUOTABLE

"This Council ensures that our student voices are meaningfully heard by not just our admin, but also our superintendent. Our goal is to support student ideas while strengthening connections through our students, our staff, and the community."

-GRC Superintendent Advisory Council President Heidi Castle

#### Superintendent Student Advisory Council Representatives



Left: Senior Heidi Castle, President  
Middle: sophomore Sophie Schmiege and senior Steven Yang  
Bottom: sophomore Josie Ward and senior Paxton Hammonds, Vice President



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Dr. Dora Hall, Chair (District 2)  
Carl Kiser, Vice Chair (District 1)

Ben Dorsey (District 4)  
Ashley Ritchie-Rowland (District 5)  
Paula Thomas (District 3)

CCPS  
Supt. Dustin Howard  
CAO/Asst. Supt. Kelly Fithen  
COO Brandon Watkins  
Full Admin Team

## Board amends calendar

The calendar amendment discussion began with Director of Pupil Personnel Jamie Keene reminding the Board that Kentucky requires districts to meet a minimum of 170 instructional days and 1,062 instructional hours.

The CCPS calendar includes 172 days, but before the vote, two snow days had already reduced the district to the minimum requirement.

Keene outlined several options, including leaving the calendar unchanged, converting a scheduled teacher workday on Friday, February 13, into an instructional day, reinstating Monday, February 16 (originally listed as a non-school day) or adding both days back to the calendar.

Superintendent Howard emphasized that while the district currently meets state requirements, further weather-related closures could force the school year to extend into late May or June, impacting graduation and end-of-year planning. He noted that adding days now would provide flexibility and clearer communication for families and staff.

Board members expressed concern about continued winter forecasts and the risk of losing additional instructional days without sufficient contingency options.

“I don’t think it hurts to put those two days back and give ourselves some wiggle room,” board member Ben Dorsey said. “The last thing I want to do is push into June.”

Board member Kiser echoed the concern, citing current weather patterns and the likelihood of additional disruptions.

The board also discussed the district’s Educational Enhancement Opportunity process, which allows students to receive attendance credit for approved educational travel, helping families navigate schedule changes if instructional days are added. SEE BOX TO THE RIGHT.

Following discussion, the board approved reinstating both February 13 and February 16 as regular instructional days. The motion passed by a 4-1 vote.

## Additional Business

The Board also approved:

- > A memorandum of understanding with the City of Winchester for traffic safety improvements near school campuses.
- > An agreement for consulting services related to federal tax credits for geothermal installations at the new preschool.
- > A construction manager contract for upcoming renovation and roof replacement projects at Baker and RDC.

The Board adjourned to closed session to discuss future acquisitions.

## What is an Educational Enhancement Opportunity?

An Educational Enhancement Opportunity is an absence from school that is excused because the student is taking part in an activity that enhances their learning in ways recognized by the school district, but outside of normal school hours.

When such an absence is approved, the student is considered present and does not lose attendance credit.

**THIS REQUEST FORM** must be submitted in advance to the school principal explaining the activity and its educational purpose. If approved, the days are coded as exempt in Infinite Campus.

