

## State School Aid Act (SSAA) Section 21f (14) Summary

### New Statutory Language:

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*(14) Subject to the requirements in this subsection, a district may provide instruction under this section for not more than 15 days in a school year. If a district plans to provide instruction under this section to pupils for not more than 15 days during a school year, the district's plan must be approved by the board of the district and the district must provide notice of the plan to impacted pupils and their parents or legal guardians before enactment of the plan. Days of instruction under this subsection may only be used for the following purposes, as defined by the department:*

*(a) Emergency closures.*

*(b) Student testing days*

*(c) Professional development purposes, not to exceed a total of 30 hours during a school year.*

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### What Must Occur Before a District Can Utilize New Virtual Days Under §21f(14):

- **Before a District Enacts Any Section §21f(14) Virtual Days:**
  - **District Must Develop a Plan for §21f(14) "Virtual Days"**
    - Similar to how district had to define a "remote learning day" during the pandemic. How will instruction be delivered? What will be required of students? How will student participation in the virtual day be measured?
  - **School Board Must Approve the District's Plan for §21f(14) Virtual Days**
  - **School District Must Notify all Impacted Students & Parents/Guardians of the Plan**

**Definitions:** §21f(14) usage does not require parental consent, pupil schedule changes, etc. and leaves the terms in subsections (a)(b)(c) to be defined by the Department, but MDE has not yet issued guidance in this area. In the interim, we offer the following:

- **(a) Emergency Closures** – borrowing from the §101(4)(a) definition used for canceled/forgiven days/hours: "conditions not within the control of school authorities, such as severe storms, fire, epidemics, utility power unavailability, water or sewer failure, or health conditions as defined by the city, county, or state health authorities"
- **(b) Student Testing Days** – the legislatures use of the term "student testing" instead of "state testing" here leads us to conclude the (b) definition includes state assessments, but also includes any local student testing.
- **(c) Professional development purposes** – the legislature limiting usage of (c) to "30 hours" per school year leads us to conclude this subsection refers to **teacher** professional development as required under Revised School Code §1527(1): district must provide its teachers with at least 5 days (i.e., 30 hours) of teacher professional development each school year.

**Hard Cap: No more than 15 Virtual Days per SY** (July 1 – June 30).

§21f(14) virtual days are **in addition to** §101 canceled/forgiven time (up to 6 days + extra 3 w/ MDE approval) **and in addition to** §101(10) Qualifying PD days/hours. **3 separate "buckets"**

### Questions?

There are many unknowns. A list of questions on §21f(14) has been submitted to MDE, but if your district has any specific questions to add, please send your question(s) via email to Emily Taylor at [etaylor@oaisd.org](mailto:etaylor@oaisd.org) or [emilytaylor@kentisd.org](mailto:emilytaylor@kentisd.org).