



HOUSE BILL 1026: Remote Instruction for Excess Emergencies.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 2, 2026
Introduced by:	Reps. Lambeth, Potts, Biggs	Prepared by:	Bryson Penley Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: *The First Edition of House Bill 1026 would do the following:*

- **Authorize public school units not operating under a good cause waiver to use an additional 3 remote instruction days or 15 remote instruction hours when the unit (i) has already used 5 remote instruction days or 30 remote instruction hours and (ii) experiences another emergency requiring the use of remote instruction.**
- **Appropriate \$5,000 in recurring funds to the Department of the Public Instruction to implement the act.**

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-84.2(a) requires local boards of education to adopt a school calendar that includes a minimum of 185 days or 1,025 hours of instruction in every school year.

G.S. 115C-84.2(d) requires local boards of education to set the opening and closing dates of the public schools under their jurisdiction, within limitations established by that section. G.S. 115C-84.2(d) also establishes a process for local boards of education to show "good cause" to deviate from the general opening and closing date requirements. A local board of education can show "good cause" if schools in any local school administrative unit in a county were closed for at least eight days in four of the previous ten years because of severe weather conditions, energy shortages, power failures, or other emergency situations.

G.S. 115C-84.3 defines "remote instruction" as "instruction delivered to students in a remote location outside of the school facility, whether synchronously or asynchronously." Remote instruction can be used to satisfy the requirement that local boards of education provide 185 days or 1,025 hours of instruction in every school year, within the following limitations:

- Public school units in a county that has received a "good cause waiver" under G.S. 115C-84.2(d) can count up to 15 remote instruction days or 90 remote instruction hours towards minimum instruction requirements when schools are unable to meet because of severe weather conditions, energy shortages, power failures, or other emergency situations.
- All other public school units can count up to five remote instruction days or 30 remote instruction hours to towards minimum instruction requirements when schools are unable to meet because severe weather conditions, energy shortages, power failures, or other emergency situations.

Schools that choose to provide remote instruction must annually submit a remote instruction plan to the State Board of Education that includes (i) a detailed framework for delivering high quality remote instruction, and (ii) information on the number of remote instruction days or hours used in the prior school year to satisfy instructional requirements.

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BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1 would allow a public school unit to use up to 3 additional remote instruction days or 15 additional remote instruction hours if all of the following apply:

- The public school unit is not operating under a "good cause waiver" pursuant to G.S. 115C-84.2(d).
- The public school unit has already used 5 remote instruction days or 30 remote instruction hours.
- The public school unit experiences an additional emergency that requires the use of remote instruction days, or it continues to experience an ongoing emergency that requires the continued use of remote instruction days.

If a public school unit uses additional remote instruction days or hours, then the public school unit must include the following additional information in its next remote instruction plan:

- The total number of remote instruction days or hours used.
- The number of additional remote instruction days or hours beyond 5 days or 30 hours.
- A description of the emergency or emergencies requiring the use of the additional remote instruction days or hours.
- Whether the public school unit deviated from its remote instruction plan at any time, and if applicable, a description of why the public school unit deviated from its remote instruction plan.

Section 2 would appropriate \$5,000 in recurring funds to the Department of Public Instruction for increased administrative costs associated with enforcing this act and for providing technical assistance to public school units.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective July 1, 2026, and apply beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.