May 3, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: County and City Superintendents of Education

FROM: Joseph B. Morton
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Senate Bill (SB) 271 / School Make-Up Day Options

SB 271 was approved today by the House Education Policy Committee with an amendment that I fully support (attached). If the House approves it tomorrow it will be sent back to the Senate for concurrence and then sent to Governor Bentley for signature. We could have this new law and options by Thursday of this week.

If all goes well I will issue guidance on Thursday on how affected school systems may apply. I ask that you wait for the guidance before sending anything to me relative to make-up days.

Please ask your House and Senate members to support SB 271 as amended.

JBM:BAD
Attachments
FY11-1019
Line 2, Page 4  After ". . . instructional days" add the following:

"At any time the Governor of Alabama declares a State of Emergency for any part(s) of Alabama and The President of the United States confirms such a State of Emergency and authorizes federal disaster aid to the affected area(s), any so affected school system that is closed and loses student and/or employee days may appeal to the State Superintendent of Education for relief in fulfilling the local school calendar with respect to student days and/or employee days, with no loss of income to employees."
May 2, 2011

Five More Alabama Counties Designated for Disaster Assistance

MONTGOMERY—Governor Bentley has been informed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that Chilton, Coosa, Pickens, Shelby and Talladega counties have been designated for disaster assistance to households and businesses as part of Alabama's federal disaster declaration. With the addition of the three new counties, the total number of counties designated for Individual Assistance is 36.

"Alabamians are going to recover from this tragedy. I am thankful that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has added five more Alabama counties to the federal disaster declaration," said Governor Bentley. "These five new counties now have the maximum financial resources to pick up the pieces and start the recovery process."

Counties previously designated are Autauga, Bibb, Blount, Calhoun, Cherokee, Choctaw, Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Elmore, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Hale, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Limestone Madison, Marengo, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, Sumter, St. Clair, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, Washington, Walker and Winston.

"This is a huge step in rebuilding the lives of so many survivors who have lost what they have worked so hard for," said AEMA Director Art Faulkner. "In the midst of so much bad news, I hope this provides a glimmer of hope."

Affected survivors and business owners in all designated counties should apply for assistance by calling FEMA’s toll-free registration number, 800-621-FEMA (3362). The hearing or speech impaired can use the TTY line at 800-462-7585. The registration lines are available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., local time. An application may also be completed online by going to www.disasterassistance.gov.