

## More Missed School Days; School Year Extends

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Now 19 days missed by Watauga County Schools, as Watauga joined Avery and Ashe in closing schools today due to more winter weather. School closings this week are forcing Watauga Schools to cancel two of the Easter week holidays at the end of next week, making them regular school days. Yesterday, it was announced that Thursday, April 4th and Friday, April 5th have been changed to regular school days instead of being part of spring break as originally planned. The remaining dates for spring break are April 1-3 and these dates will not change. Two teacher work days have already been pushed back to the end of the school year due to the number of missed days, and as of yesterday's announcement, the last day of school is set for June 11th, but schools said in their release that cancelled school days can only be added to the end of the calendar, so that may make the last day June 12th. The release said that Principals will have additional discretion in granting excused absences for students who are absent on April 4-5 due to prior commitments. Parents will still need to send a note explaining the reasons a student is not present on these dates.