



## **HOT TOPICS**

*October 24, 2024*

We all want our students to succeed. We are dedicated and hard-working professionals who give our all to ensure that our students have what they need to reach their goals.

When it comes to an emergency like, Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Milton, our members step up and respond by doing what needs to get done, often putting their needs aside to staff shelters, coordinate outreach, organizing support for students and the community after the emergency, and so much more.

We also know that during times like these, the conversation within VCS turns to how to make up the lost learning time due to an emergency shut down. It is a managerial right that is held by the district to set the calendar. Any changes to the calendar must be bargained.

Each year, the Calendar Committee creates a district calendar that includes days identified as inclement weather make-up days. Historically, these days are the Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week. Unfortunately, if a decision is made to make up the missed learning time, there is resistance to using these days, and we understand why people feel this way.

District leadership has reached out to have conversations about making up the lost learning time. We know that currently there is just enough time on the books to absorb all the school closure days as required by the Florida Department of Education. However, district leaders are focused on student learning and want to work with VUE to recover the learning time.

When we began the conversation, the ask was to make up two of the four days that schools were closed. Essentially ten hours of student learning. However, after several conversations with VCS leaders, we have settled on four hours of student learning. The four hours will be recovered by collapsing four early release days, which equates to one hour per day missed. The days will be identified and shared as soon as possible.

When surveyed, members selected the early release days as the mechanism to use to make-up the lost time, which is the directive that was followed. The actions of our union are guided and directed by you, the member.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the office at 386-238-1605. Thank you.

In Solidarity,

Elizabeth