



## Update on Alternative Structured Learning Days “Blizzard Bags”

TO: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Robin Desmond, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment *Robin Desmond*

DATE: July 29, 2019

RE: *Update on Alternative Structured Learning Days “Blizzard Bags”*

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The following report is in response to the motion by Gerard Nutter:

*With DESE cancelling the use of Blizzard Bags after the 2019-2020 school year and beyond, request the Administration to look into what possible alternatives may be in the works so that we don't run into the same problems we did a couple of years ago.*

On June 27, 2019, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Commissioner, Jeffrey Riley, released a memorandum regarding Alternative Structured Learning Day (ASLD) Programs (see attached memorandum). Based on a taskforce review of these programs, DESE will discontinue the alternative structured learning day pilot programs after the 2019-2020 school year. Previous locally-approved programs may be implemented as needed through the 2019 - 2020 school year. DESE is recommending that districts consider all scheduling options, when developing the 2020-2021 school year calendar, to allow for missed days due to unexpected events.