

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2004

400J0233

SENATE BILL NO. 50

Introduced by: The Committee on Education at the request of the Department of Education

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the amount of time
2 graduating seniors may be released prior to the end of school.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. That § 13-26-2 be amended to read as follows:

5 13-26-2. The school board or governing body shall operate grades one through twelve in its
6 schools for at least a nine-month regular term in any one school year. The regular school term
7 may be conducted on a year-round basis and shall begin on a date established by the school
8 board. The Board of Education shall promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 1-26 governing the
9 operation and scheduling of year-round schools. ~~Any school board or governing body may~~
10 ~~release graduating high school seniors from school before the end of the regular term if the~~
11 ~~release is for no more than three school days.~~ Make up time for school closing because of
12 weather, disease, or emergency need not exceed ten school days. Graduating seniors are excused
13 from make up time if the make up time occurs after the students have graduated or after
14 graduation exercises have been held. If classes have been convened and then are dismissed, or
15 if classes convene at a time later in the day than normal, because of inclement weather, that day
16 constitutes a school day in session equal to the number of hours planned for that day as



1 established in the local school district calendar for the year.

2 School boards are encouraged to provide time within the regular school term for curriculum
3 and staff development which shall be in addition to the time required in this section. Each
4 school board shall determine the appropriate amount of time for this activity and how best to
5 use the time based on local needs for program development, increased parent participation,
6 student contact, teachers' preparation, or other needs of the schools in the district. School ~~staff~~
7 ~~be~~ is in session only when classes are held and as provided in §§ 13-26-4 and 13-26-4.1. A
8 school board may operate a special term during the summer months.