

## Guidance on Reporting February 23, 2026 Waiver in SAMS 2026-27 Claim Year

On February 23, 2026, many districts were forced to close schools to protect the safety of students and staff in response to a winter storm. Districts in affected areas received a blanket waiver for the day/hours as explained in the notice posted to the [state aid website](#). The guidance below is to advise districts on how to report February 23, 2026 to State Aid in the 2026-27 Claim Year (2025-26 school year).

*\*Please note that districts should only complete Schedule A8 if they did not meet the 180 Day and/or 900/990 hourly requirements. If a district was able to meet the requirement without the addition of this day, then no steps need to be taken.*

When 2026-27 claim forms are released in August 2026, affected districts will take the following steps:

- Report the number of actual session days on the 180 Day Calendar form, Schedules A2, A4, and A5, as usual.
- If district did not meet the necessary day/hours requirements, district will report February 23 on Schedule A8-**Extraordinary Condition and State of Emergency Requiring Closure Days**.
  - Enter the date, 02/23/2026
  - Under each grade level, select “Yes”
  - Under Reason for Closure select “State or Local State of Emergency Declared”
  - Under School/Building or Whole District, type “Whole District”
- Districts **do not** need to complete or submit the Emergency Declaration Application, or the State of Emergency Declaration , as the waiver negates this need.

Once submitted, State Aid staff will review the form and recognize the February 23<sup>rd</sup> date as covered by the waiver and will verify that the district is within the scope of [State of Emergency Declaration #58](#). No additional documentation will be required by the district for February 23, 2026. Following the completion of the above, State Aid staff will then advise districts individually on how to proceed with addition of said day to the 180 Day Calendar formset.

Any school required to close outside of February 23, 2026, must apply for the day utilizing the standard process outlined in our guidance: [Directions for Schedule A-8 \(Extraordinary Condition Days and State of Emergency Days\)](#). In this instance, districts must still submit the completed [Application for State of Emergency Days Pursuant to Education Law 3604\(7\)](#), and submit the applicable Executive Order via email to [OMSSAMS@nysed.gov](mailto:OMSSAMS@nysed.gov), Attn. Attendance.

For any further questions regarding the reporting of February 23, 2026, please email [OMSSAMS@nysed.gov](mailto:OMSSAMS@nysed.gov), Attn. Attendance.