



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 368		DATE: 2/19/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BILLIE MCGRAW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mcgraw@hamilton.k12.mo.us	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 11:06 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello, my name is Dr. Billie McGraw and I am the superintendent of schools at Hamilton R-II School District in rural northwest Missouri. Our district has a planned calendar of 170 days and has made every effort to meet the 169 day requirement for additional teacher funding in the 2025-2026 school year. We began our year as early as legally allowed, which is two weeks prior to Labor Day. As of today's date, 02/18/2025, we have utilized all of our Alternate Methods of Instruction (AMI) days to the maximum extent allowed (6 days) and have added one additional day to our calendar at the end of the school year. These efforts have allowed us to miss 8 in-person days and still meet the 169 day requirement. As I am typing this, we are experiencing extreme cold and inclement weather in northwest Missouri and my fear is that additional weather days will be needed likely pushing our school year past Memorial Day which causes issues with scheduling summer school and we tend to suffer from major attendance issues when school is held after Memorial Day. This winter has been daunting in my region and across the state. Hamilton R-II and many other district's around the state have tried in earnest to meet this new requirement, but must always prioritize the safety of students and staff above all else. The passage of HB 368 would reward the efforts of our students and staff who have done their AMI work while recognizing that we are making our best effort to comply with the spirit of the 169 day rule while maintaining the safety of our students and staff as a top priority. Thank you for your time in reading this testimony and your consideration in supporting HB 368. On behalf of Hamilton R-II School District, we truly appreciate it.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRANDT SHIELDS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-208-7879	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2100 I-70 DR. SW			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAN WIEBERS		PHONE NUMBER: 660-646-4566	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CHILLICOTHE R-II SCHOOL DISTRICT		TITLE: SUPERINTENDENT	
ADDRESS: 2807 HORNET ROAD			
CITY: CHILLICOTHE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64601
EMAIL: dwiebers@chillicotheschools.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 12:30 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I would like to express my gratitude to the state legislature for considering HB368. As the Superintendent of the Chillicothe R-II School District, one of the most challenging decisions I face is determining whether to hold school or cancel classes when weather conditions pose potential life-threatening risks. Balancing the imperative to educate, provide meals, and offer a safe environment for our children against the dangers of transporting students to school is a complex dilemma. This is particularly concerning when we must ask our youngest drivers to navigate hazardous road conditions or endure dangerously low temperatures. In December 2023, the Chillicothe R-II Board of Education approved a 170-day calendar, which includes 1,125.6 hours of instructional time for the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, I submitted a plan to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and received approval for 36 hours of Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) days. This year's weather in Chillicothe has been exceptionally severe, featuring a blizzard, an ice storm, and dangerously cold temperatures. As of today, our district has missed eight days of school, exhausting all of our AMI days, and we have utilized an additional day to meet the 169-day requirement established in SB 727. Therefore, days of school will need to be made up, for the district to receive the needed funds to assist with teacher salary increases. We have limited options for adding more days to the calendar, which would necessitate moving and disrupting our summer school program. Furthermore, adding days after Memorial Day presents challenges for attendance and engagement, as motivation tends to wane during this period, leading to likely low attendance and disappointment due to the delay of summer. My district, along with many others across the state, has made earnest efforts to meet this new requirement while always prioritizing the safety of our students and staff above all else. The passage of HB 368 would reward the efforts of our students and staff who have diligently completed their AMI work and recognize that we are making our best effort to comply with the spirit of the 169-day rule. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Sincerely, Dan Wiebers
Superintendent Chillicothe R-II School District



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIEL GOTT		PHONE NUMBER: 660-359-1340	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: TRENTON R-IX SCHOOL DISTRICT		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 801 AVALON ST			
CITY: TRENTON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64683
EMAIL: dgott@trentonr9.k12.mo.us	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 11:32 AM
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My name is Daniel Gott, and I am the superintendent of Trenton R-IX School District located in Trenton, North Central Missouri. I am writing to express my support for Missouri House Bill 368, which addresses weather-related exemptions to the 169 school day requirement. At Trenton R-IX, we are committed to maximizing educational outcomes for our students. For the 2025-2026 school year, not only does our calendar meet the 169-day requirement, but we've also proactively structured 1,108 instructional hours by extending our school day. This approach illustrates our dedication to providing ample educational opportunities even under challenging circumstances. Moreover, we are implementing an Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) plan for 2025-2026 to ensure continuity in education should we encounter another severe winter. Our preparedness in using AMI plans further underscores our commitment to maintaining educational standards despite unpredictable weather conditions. However, I am concerned about the potential need to make up days to fulfill the 169-day threshold, particularly as it would disrupt our summer school program, which is very important for our students and families. I respectfully request that you consider passing HB 368. This legislation would acknowledge and reward schools like Trenton R-IX that are intentionally designing their schedules to maximize seat time and make thoughtful, safety-oriented decisions during severe weather conditions. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter, and for your continued commitment to enhancing education in our state.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIELLE CURREN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: currendanielle15@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 5:20 PM

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We need to go back to how the school was and not continue to add days on the school calendar. AMI days should only be for emergencies ONLY.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DENISE LATORRE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: denise-latorre2611@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 5:32 PM

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Schools need to have inclement weather days built into their schedules. Being penalized for weather is detrimental to students and districts.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAY ALBRIGHT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jalbright@midbuchanan.k12.mo.us	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 11:47 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Mid-Buchanan R-V School District would like to advocate in support of HB 368, as the bill reconciles a concern related to no weather provisions being in place to help ensure schools can meet the new 169 school day requirement, per SB 727, to access the additional funding to support teacher salaries. The district highly values and understands the intent of what this provision within SB 727 was trying to accomplish. However, it is my understanding that upon interpretation of the bill by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the lack of statutory language addressing the application of inclement weather days has led to unintended consequences for the districts wanting to adhere to the 169 day requirement. We all recognize that this year's winter has significantly impacted student attendance days. The quick passage of HB 368 would be very much appreciated. Thank you for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN NEWELL		PHONE NUMBER: 816-424-6466	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EAST BUCHANAN C-1 SCHOOL DISTRICT		TITLE: SUPERINTENDENT	
ADDRESS: 100 SMITH ST			
CITY: GOWER		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64454
EMAIL: newell@ebs.k12.mo.us	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 9:49 AM

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My district, East Buchanan C-1, located in the great northwest of Missouri between Kansas City and St. Joseph, has a planned calendar of 170 days and has made every effort to meet the 169 day requirement for additional teacher funding in the 2025-2026 school year. We began our year as early as legally allowed, which is two weeks prior to Labor Day. We have utilized our Alternate Methods of Instruction (AMI) days to the maximum extent allowed (6 days) and have added 3 additional days to our calendar. These efforts allow us to miss 10 in-person days and still meet the 169 day requirement. This winter has been daunting in my region and across the state. We are currently experiencing our ninth day of cancellation due to weather. The forecast for this week makes more cancellations likely. We have limited options for adding more days to the calendar. We would definitely need to move and disrupt our summer school. We would also be adding days after Memorial Day, which creates a challenge for attendance. Days added after Memorial Day are also challenging for engagement because of motivation issues associated with likely low attendance and the disappointment of summer's delay. My district and many other district's around the state have tried in earnest to meet this new requirement, but must always prioritize the safety of students and staff above all else. The passage of HB 368 would reward the efforts of our students and staff who have done their AMI work and recognize that we are making our best effort to comply with the spirit of the 169 day rule. Thank you for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JONNIE BEAVERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: superintendent@rhsk12.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 10:13 AM
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My district, Ridgeway RV, located in the great northwest of Missouri near the IA line, is still in the planning processes and considering the 169 day calendar proposal. In the past, we have begun our year as early as legally allowed, which is two weeks prior to Labor Day, utilized our Alternate Methods of Instruction (AMI) days to the maximum extent allowed (6 days) and are looking at adding days to the calendar. This winter has been hard in my region and across the state. We are currently experiencing our ninth day of cancellation due to weather. The forecast for this week makes more cancellations likely. We have limited options for adding more days to the calendar. We would definitely need to move and disrupt our summer school. We would also be adding days after Memorial Day, which creates a challenge for attendance. Days added after Memorial Day are also challenging for engagement because of motivation issues associated with likely low attendance and the disappointment of summer's delay. My district and many other district's around the state have tried in earnest to meet this new requirement, but must always prioritize the safety of students and staff above all else. The passage of HB 368 would reward the efforts of our students and staff who have done their AMI work and recognize that we are making our best effort to comply with the spirit of the 169 day rule. Thank you for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUSTIN COLLINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jcollins@gallatin.k12.mo.us	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 1:58 PM
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My district, Gallatin R-V, located in the northwest of Missouri, has a planned calendar of 169 days and will make every effort to meet the 169-day requirement for additional teacher funding in the 2025-2026 school year. We began our year as early as legally allowed, which is two weeks prior to Labor Day. We have utilized our Alternate Methods of Instruction (AMI) days to the maximum extent allowed (6 days) and have added 3 additional days to our calendar. These efforts allow us to miss 10 in-person days and still meet the 169-day requirement. This winter has been daunting in my region and across the state. We are currently experiencing our ninth day of cancellation due to weather, and the forecast for this week makes more cancellations likely. We have limited options for adding more days to the calendar. Making adjustments would require moving and disrupting our summer school. We would also have to add days after Memorial Day, which creates attendance challenges. Additionally, days added after Memorial Day often struggle with engagement due to motivation issues related to likely low attendance and the disappointment of summer's delay. My district, along with many others across the state, has worked diligently to meet this new requirement but must always prioritize the safety of students and staff above all else. The passage of HB 368 would reward the efforts of our students and staff who have completed their AMI work and recognize that we are making our best effort to comply with the spirit of the 169-day rule. Thank you for your consideration. Dr. Justin Collins



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTA MYERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kmmyers49@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 1:21 PM
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This is very important to evaluate and exempt snow days from SB727. Inclement weather days are out of a school districts control. As a teacher and a parent I believe we should not have to add on days at the end of the school year in order to qualify for additional funding. For example my school goes to school for 171 days and well over 1044 hours. We should not be adding days on to make up snow days



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LARA WAKEFIELD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: wakefieldconsultationservices@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 4:55 PM
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We need protections for inclement weather days in Missouri similar to what we had in the past for the 169 day requirement. This should not put an undue burden on districts by forcing them to keep adding days to the calendar past 10 days or forcing districts to use AMI days when those need to be reserved for non-weather emergency situations.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAUREN HARRISON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lauren.harrison@att.net		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 8:32 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARISA HAGLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: marisahagler@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 7:01 PM
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We need protection in place for bad weather similar to what we had in the past. Districts shouldn't have to keep adding days to the year and forcing our kids to do AMI days. AMI is a joke. No school should be able to make our kids do a little bit of work to count for a 6 hour school day. AMI is being used very dishonesty in our district. Students are being counted present even when doing absolutely nothing at home. In seat learning is the best learning. No more virtual!!!!



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 615-202-3579	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 222A MADISON ST			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: mharris@msta.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 11:00 AM
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MSTA is in support of this simple cleanup to ensure the 169 day provision is clear.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MIKE LODEWEGEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: MO COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 3500 AMAZONAS			
CITY: JC		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1810 E. ELM ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA GRIMES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: bgrimes@avenuecityschool.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 11:06 AM
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As Superintendent of Avenue City School District, (Northwest Missouri) I want to express my strong support for HB 368, which provides much-needed weather forgiveness in meeting the 169-day rule. Avenue City is a PreK-8 district with a long-standing tradition of academic excellence and strong educational outcomes. We are deeply committed to providing our students with a high-quality education while prioritizing their safety and well-being. This year, we started school as early as legally possible, utilized Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) days to their fullest extent, and proactively added four additional instructional days to our calendar. Despite these efforts, our options for further adjustments remain limited. Extending the school year past Memorial Day presents significant challenges, including decreased attendance, disruptions to family plans, and a decline in student motivation and engagement. These factors hinder the effectiveness of additional instructional days and create logistical burdens for both families and staff. Avenue City is not the only district facing this dilemma. Across Missouri, schools are struggling to balance state requirements with the realities of weather-related disruptions. We must recognize and reward the diligent efforts of students, teachers, and administrators who have done "the work" and demonstrated a genuine commitment to meeting the spirit of the 169-day rule. Above all, student safety must remain our top priority. HB 368 acknowledges the unpredictable nature of weather-related challenges and ensures that schools are not unfairly penalized for circumstances beyond their control. I urge policymakers to support this legislation and provide districts with the flexibility needed to maintain both educational integrity and student well-being. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to Missouri's students and educators. Rebecca J. Grimes Superintendent, Avenue City School District



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN RENEE CARTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: srenee.carter58@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 5:23 PM
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I support this bill because our teachers should not be punished for school being out and not meeting their required number of hours or required days to be in session to get state aid. So I'm asking you to vote. I'm asking you to vote Yes, on this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 11:54 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PERRY GORRELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DESE		TITLE: CHIEF OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 205 JEFFERSON			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 12:00 AM	
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