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Students could face extended school year

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FREMONT -- Local school districts have been forced to use all or exceed their allotted calamity days for the school year because of harsh winter weather.

In Ohio, schools are allowed five calamity days for severe weather, damage to a school building and other situations that may require schools to cancel classes.

Old Fort Local School District is currently two days over and Superintendent Laura Keller said no decisions have been made on rescheduling.

"If we get three or four more days the state allows us to start making up days in half hour increments," Keller said. "We may consider that."

Gibsonburg Exempted Village Schools and Fremont City Schools are both a day over the limit.

"The way it looks right now we'll be making it up at the end," Gibsonburg Superintendent Tom Peiffer said, adding all the closings this year have been weather-related.

Bettsville Local Schools and Clyde Green Springs Schools have reached the limit and have no calamity days remaining.

Bellevue City Schools has one day left to use for the remainder of the school year except for Lyme Elementary. A water line break earlier in the year prompted school to be canceled.

Ohio schools must have a minimum of 182 days in their calendar, and they must designate five contingency days to be used when they exceed the five calamity days provided by state law.

The calamity mark came earlier this year compared to last year, when that mark was reached in late February.

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