



March 6, 2025

Dear RCSS Families,

Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we transitioned to a PowerUp Asynchronous Learning Day today. We understand that these adjustments—especially in a year with disruptions from Hurricane Helene and winter weather closures—can be challenging, and we appreciate your support in keeping learning on track while prioritizing student safety.

As our students prepare for our scheduled **PowerUp Asynchronous Learning Day on Monday, March 10**, I want to share more about how we make inclement weather decisions and what we are doing to improve our academic calendar for future school years.

How We Make Weather-Related Decisions

In-person instruction is always our preferred mode of learning, but the safety of our students remains our top priority. When our Emergency Management Team received a National Weather Service advisory predicting wind gusts of up to 50 mph late Tuesday afternoon, we carefully evaluated our options. For reference, school buses are only safely operable up to 40 mph wind speeds. We also recognize that many families and staff are still feeling the emotional effects of Hurricane Helene, and we considered these concerns when making our decision.

Ultimately, shifting to virtual learning allowed us to prioritize safety while ensuring students could continue their education. Students have until Monday, March 10, at midnight to submit assignments in case they did not have devices at home on Wednesday.

Supporting You and Our Students

While we considered adjusting our scheduled PowerUp Asynchronous Learning Day on Monday, March 10, operational considerations and logistics to bring our 4,000+ employees in for a full day of work prevents us from altering our current academic calendar.

However, we are committed to helping students and families make the most of our upcoming virtual learning day by:

- **Ensuring students and staff have the tools they need for online learning.** Our students will leave school this week with a device prepared for learning.



- **Promoting free tutoring resources like Varsity Tutors for all of our students.** These free online tutoring tools are available on your child(ren)'s Launchpad on their school-issued devices.
- **Strengthening family engagement through parent-teacher conferences.** We highly encourage you to take this time to reach out to your child(ren)'s teachers to have important discussions about their learning.

Looking Ahead

We are reviewing the 2025-2026 academic calendar to assess the number of scheduled PowerUp Asynchronous Learning Days and refine our inclement weather procedures. Any updates will be communicated to families in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in ensuring a safe and high-quality learning experience for our students. Together, we will finish the school year strong!

Sincerely,

Dr. Malinda Cobb

Interim Superintendent of Schools