



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
9th FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

CANDICE MCQUEEN
COMMISSIONER

March 3, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Jerry S. Boyd, Director of Schools
Putnam County Schools
1400 East Spring Street
Cookeville, TN 38506-4313

boydj2@pcsstn.com

Dear Mr. Boyd:

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004(a) (6), in the event of a natural disaster or serious outbreaks of illness affecting or endangering students or staff, the commissioner of education may waive the requirement for school district calendars to include one hundred eighty (180) days of classroom instruction for the current school year.

On February 21, Governor Haslam declared a Level 2 State of Emergency – Major Disaster – due to the extreme weather conditions throughout the state. This State of Emergency extended through March 2, representing six school days. Because of the unique and rare circumstances of our recent weather and the impact on school districts throughout the state, and because of the Level 2 State of Emergency declaration, the department is accepting requests to waive a maximum number of three instructional days during the period of February 21-March 2, 2015.

You have submitted a request to waive instructional days for Putnam County Schools. Pursuant to my above referenced authority, I hereby grant a waiver to Putnam County Schools of three instructional days during the period of February 21-March 2, 2015. Please revise the calendar in EIS to indicate the three days that are waived. Thank you for continuing to notify the Department of revisions to your school calendar.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candice McQueen".

Dr. Candice McQueen



PUTNAM COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

ENGAGE INSPIRE ACHIEVE

February 23, 2015

Ms. Candice McQueen, Commissioner of Education
Tennessee Department of Education
710 James Robertson Parkway
Andrew Johnson Tower, 9th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Commissioner McQueen,

As you are likely aware, Eastern Putnam County has been significantly impacted by the ice storm that occurred this past weekend. We are continuing to assess the damage across the county, particularly in the eastern region of Putnam County that includes the community in and around Monterey, Tennessee.

All Putnam County schools are closed today (Monday, February 23, 2015) due to continued safety concerns pertaining to icy road conditions as well as a significant number of Putnam County residents are without utilities. As of today, we have utilized a total of nine (9) of our 13 available stockpiled days for inclement weather conditions.

As we assess our region in planning to make every effort to reopen our schools to serve our children, we are faced with a significant challenge in opening the Monterey area schools as compared to our schools at the base of the Cumberland Plateau located in the Algood, Cookeville, and Baxter communities. The devastation of the infrastructure in the Monterey/Eastern Putnam County area will require us to consider keeping Monterey High School and Burks Elementary School located in Monterey closed additional days beyond the point that we can safely open our other schools located in the north, south, and west regions of Putnam County.

The Tennessee Student Membership and Attendance Accountability Procedures Manual, section B-103: Use of Stockpiled Days for Extreme Circumstances stipulates the application of Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-3004(e). Item three (3) of this section indicates, "This law will be applied to the system as a whole, not to individual schools. All schools in the system must have at least a seven-hour day before the excess time will count. All schools in the system must be closed by inclement weather, and the make up days applied to all."

I am formally requesting your consideration and approval of an exception to the policy/procedure requiring that Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-3004(e) must be applied to all schools in our district. Provided my determination that road and environmental conditions will allow, I am requesting the discretion to open all schools in the Putnam County areas not significantly impacted by the recent ice storm as soon as possible. Such schools would include all Putnam County schools EXCEPT the following school located in the Monterey, Tennessee area:

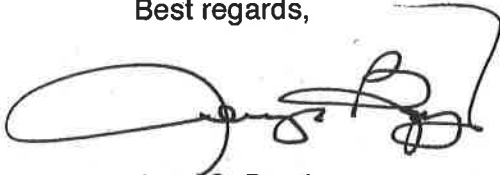
Monterey High School
Burks Elementary School

We will continue to work with the emergency response agencies deployed to assist with the disaster relief efforts in the Monterey and Eastern Putnam County area to determine when we can open the schools in that area.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly via my cell at 931-260-6091 at your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration of an exception in these unique and challenges circumstances.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry S. Boyd". The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and a vertical line at the end.

Jerry S. Boyd
Director of Schools