



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

Donald Andrews, Director of Schools
Cumberland County Schools
368 4th Street
Crossville, TN 38555-4790

dandrews1@k12tn.net

Dear Mr. Andrews:

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 Cumberland County Schools. Pursuant to my above referenced authority, I hereby grant a waiver to Cumberland 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 cursive script that reads "Candice McQueen".

Dr. Candice McQueen



Cumberland County Board of Education

368 Fourth Street

Crossville, Tennessee 38555

Phone 931/484-6135

Fax 931/484-6491

Mr. Donald E. Andrews
Superintendent

Mr. Dan Schlafer
Board of Education Chairman

Dear Commissioner Candice McQueen,

In light of our recent natural disaster, the Cumberland County School District requests a waiver of the 180 instructional day requirement. We are requesting that we be excused for at least 3 of these days due to recent weather-related circumstances. The facts supporting this request are listed below:

Circumstances

- Late Friday evening, February 20th, a major ice storm hit the Upper Cumberland area including all of Cumberland County. By the early morning hours of Saturday, over 22,000 Volunteer Energy customers in Cumberland County were without power. This storm sent many citizens to shelters as the temperatures were well below freezing for several days in a row. Without power, many families were left without a heating source. (See attached news story and TEMA Summary Report.)
- To further hinder normal activities, numerous state and county roads were littered with tree limbs, utility poles, and power lines as well as an inch of ice accumulation making travel impossible in much of the county. On Monday, after the storm, 84% of our bus routes were impassable and dangerous. Even as late as today, March 2nd, several of our routes remain blocked. (See attached news story and TEMA Summary Report.)
- Power has been restored to all of our schools, but please note the final three schools did not have electricity until this past weekend, a little over a full week after the storm hit. We were able to donate the food in the freezer of one of the schools to the proper authorities in order to feed citizens without food.
- The impact of the storm on our 12 schools included: lack of electricity, lack of telephone service, lack of internet, and physical damages to the buildings and properties. (See Initial Damages Spreadsheet)

Number of Stockpiled Days Designated in Calendar and Use

- Cumberland County designated 3 stockpiled days in the 2014-2015 school calendar: February 13, March 13, and May 21. These days were reserved for professional development in the event we should only need 10 snow days. Prior to the ice storm event, Cumberland County used the first of these days (February 13th) as planned for professional development. If granted permission, the remaining two days would convert back to student instructional days.

"Rigor+Relevance+Relationships=HOPE"

Inability of the District to Make Up Instructional Days

- During the course of the 2013-2014 school year, it was decided that the 2014 Spring Break would be partially converted to instructional days due to excessive snow days. After much community input and a thorough discussion by our Board of Education, this option was eliminated from consideration for the 2014-2015 school year due to concerns related to student absences during a time many families have scheduled plans.
- With permission, Cumberland County Schools will use the two remaining professional development days for instructional days.
- Any additional days missed will be added to the end of the school calendar. However, this raises concerns regarding conflicts with summer school, kindereprep and scheduled staff development presenters.

Thank you so much for your consideration in this matter. Please let me know if I can provide additional information or supporting documentation. We await your decision regarding our request and will make every effort to operate in the best interest of the children in Cumberland County.

Respectfully,

Dr. Rebecca Wood
Assistant Superintendent
Cumberland County Schools
931-484-6135
woodr3@k12tn.net

Cumberland County Inclement Weather Dates *(as of March 2, 2015)*

1. November 18	No School
2. January 7	No School
3. January 8	No School
4. January 14	No School
5. January 27	No School
6. February 2	No School
7. February 17	No School
8. February 18	No School
9. February 19	No School
10. February 20	No School

11. February 23	No School
12. February 24	No School
13. February 25	No School
14. February 26	No School
15. February 27	No School



**Requesting Waiver
(Natural Disaster)**

Make-Up Days

- March 13 Staff Development Day will be converted to an instructional day
- May 21 Staff Development Day will be converted to an instructional day

Paul Rainwater

From: Candice McQueen
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:14 AM
To: Paul Rainwater; Christy Ballard
Cc: Hanseul Kang; Janice Mann
Subject: Fwd: Cumberland County Waiver
Attachments: Cumberland County Waiver Request.docx; ATT00001.htm; Local News.pdf; ATT00002.htm; TEMA Report.pdf; ATT00003.htm; Cumberland County Inclement Weather Plan.docx; ATT00004.htm; Cumberland County Initial Damage Review.pdf; ATT00005.htm

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rebecca Wood" <woodr3@k12tn.net>
To: "Candice McQueen" <Candice.McQueen@tn.gov>
Subject: Cumberland County Waiver

***** This is an EXTERNAL email. Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - OIR-Security. *****

Dr. McQueen,
Please accept Cumberland County's request to waive the 180 instructional day requirement. Please let me know if you need additional information. I look forward to your response. .
Thank you.

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Rebecca G. Wood, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum, Instruction & Accountability
931-484-6135