



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 11, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Tony H. Seal, Director of Schools
Hancock County Schools
418 Harrison Street
Sneedville, TN 37869

tseal2@k12tn.net

Dear Mr. Seal:

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 Hancock County Schools. Pursuant to my above referenced authority, I hereby grant a waiver to Hancock 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

Hancock County Board of Education

Tony H. Seal, Director of Schools

Dear Commissioner McQueen,

The circumstances leading to our request are due to the amount of days already used due to snow and sickness. With the school year nearing the end the days would benefit Hancock County School system in a positive manner. With the 3 days allowed we will still have to make up 1 day somehow.

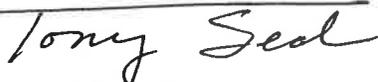
Thirteen Days that were stockpiled for the Hancock County School District were used as follows for snow and sickness. Total of 17 days have been missed.

December 18, 2014, December 19, 2014 for illness (see attached approved letter).

January 16, 2015 January 27, 2015 ,February 17, 2015, February 18, 2015, February 19, 2015, February 20, 2015, February 23, 2015, February 24, 2015, February 25, 2015, February 26, 2015, February 27, 2015, March 2, 2015, March 3, 2015, March 5, 2015, March 6, 2015.

The Hancock County High School graduation date has been set and diploma's are being printed. Trying to move this would be a great financial burden on the school system. A delay ending of school would interfere with timely beginning of Summer School and Credit recovery programs.

Sincerely,



Director of Schools

Tony Seal



BILL HASLAM
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KEVIN HUFFMAN
COMMISSIONER

December 17, 2014

U.S. & Electronic Mail

Mike Antrican, Director of Schools
Hancock County Schools
418 Harrison St.
Sneedville, Tennessee 37869
mantrican@k12tn.net

Dear Mr. Antrican,

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004 allows a local board of education or private or church-related school that exceeds the full six and one-half (6 1/2) hours of legally mandated instructional time per day by one-half (1/2) hour daily for the full academic year to be credited with the additional instructional time. The excess instructional time shall be accumulated in amounts up to, but not exceeding thirteen (13) instructional days each year, and may be applied toward meeting instructional time missed due to inclement weather at a district's discretion. They may also be applied to meeting instructional time missed due to natural disaster, serious outbreaks of illness affecting or endangering students or staff or dangerous structural or environmental conditions rendering a school unsafe for use, or for professional development, with the approval of the commissioner.

You have submitted information requesting permission to amend Hancock County's district calendar by converting December 18 and December 19, 2014 from scheduled instructional days to stockpiled days used for closing schools due to serious outbreaks of illness affecting or endangering students or staff. Your request to amend your calendar to use two stockpiled days due to serious outbreaks of illness is hereby granted.

Please revise your 200 Day Calendar in EIS to indicate December 18 and December 19, 2014 as closing due to serious outbreaks of illness affecting or endangering students or staff, and thank you for keeping us up to date on your schedule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Huffman".

Kevin Huffman
Commissioner