



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 16, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Dr. Charles Edmonds, Director of Schools
Jefferson County Schools
1221 Gay Street
Dandridge, TN 37725

cedmonds@k12tn.net

Dear Dr. Edmonds:

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

Paul Rainwater

From: Commissioner McQueen
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 1:49 PM
To: Paul Rainwater; Christy Ballard
Subject: FW: Waiver Request

From: Charles Edmonds [<mailto:cedmonds@k12tn.net>]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 1:08 PM
To: Commissioner McQueen
Cc: Sherry Finchum; DOMINIQUE SALACIAK; Debbie Berry; Mandy Schneitm; Anne Marie; Judy Cavanah; Bill Jarnigan; Randall Bradley; Jonathan dude; Jim Vines
Subject: Waiver Request

Dr. McQueen,

Thank you for your e-mail dated February 26, 2015 in which you addressed the Level 2 State of Emergency declared by Governor Haslam on February 21, 2015 due to extreme weather conditions throughout the State.

Jefferson County was the recipient of very extreme and hazardous weather conditions consisting of a combination of ice and snow. Due to the hazardous conditions we have missed a total of 14 days of school for students. Our district was unable to have school any of the days during the week that was declared a state of emergency by the Governor.

In our school calendar, ten (10) days were set aside for inclement weather. In addition, three (3) days were designated as professional development days. Two (2) professional development days were used on October 15th and November 4th to train our teachers in the State Department of Education writing initiative. The third professional development day was used as an additional snow day on February 16th.

We have scheduled one (1) make-up day for students on Thursday, April 2, 2015 which was to be an in-service day. Our teachers will make up their missed training in afternoon hours scheduled after school.

We respectfully request a waiver of three (3) instructional days. Your consideration of this request will be greatly appreciated.

Charles Edmonds, Ed.D., J.D.
Jefferson County Director of Schools