



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

**BILL HASLAM**  
GOVERNOR

**CANDICE MCQUEEN**  
COMMISSIONER

March 10, 2015

***Via Electronic Mail***

Marty Troutman, Director  
West Hills Baptist Preschool and Kindergarten  
409 N. Winston Road  
Knoxville, TN 37909

[preschool@wherechildrengrow.org](mailto:preschool@wherechildrengrow.org)

Dear Mr. Troutman:

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 West Hills Baptist Preschool and Kindergarten. Pursuant to my above referenced authority, I hereby grant a waiver to West Hills Baptist Preschool and Kindergarten 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

ch. 123, §§ 1, 4; 1986, ch. 933, § 4; 1987, ch. 308, §§ 58, 59; 1989, ch. 64, § 12; 1989, ch. 310, § 1; 1990, ch. 662, §§ 1, 2; 1992, ch. 535, § 40; 1994, ch. 938, §§ 1, 2; 1994, ch. 985, § 3; 1995, ch. 366, § 1; 1997, ch. 72, § 1; 1999, ch. 34, § 11; 2002, ch. 558, § 1; 2003, ch. 4, § 1; 2007, ch. 45, § 2; 2007, ch. 247, § 1; 2009, ch. 272, § 1; 2009, ch. 448, § 1; 2010, ch. 715, § 1; 2010, ch. 1100, § 77; 2012, ch. 575, § 1; 2012, ch. 999, § 2; 2014, ch. 833, § 1.

## Christy Ballard

General Counsel

[Christy.Ballard@tn.gov](mailto:Christy.Ballard@tn.gov)

(615) 741-2921

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<image003.jpg>

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**From:** Hanseul Kang  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2015 9:35 AM  
**To:** Christy Ballard  
**Subject:** FW: Snow Days Waiver

Christy,

It sounds like this is a non-public school. Can you look into this and either suggest a reply or let us know if this is a waiver we can grant?

Best,  
Hanseul

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**From:** Candice McQueen  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 8:05 AM  
**To:** Hanseul Kang  
**Subject:** Fwd: Snow Days Waiver

Do we take these requests, too?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** West Hills Preschool <[preschool@wherechildrengrow.org](mailto:preschool@wherechildrengrow.org)>  
**Date:** March 9, 2015 at 7:57:27 AM CDT  
**To:** <[candice.mcqueen@tn.gov](mailto:candice.mcqueen@tn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Snow Days Waiver

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

Dear Ms. McQueen,

I am the director of West Hills Baptist Preschool and Kindergarten in Knoxville, TN. Our school serves children ages 2-Kindergarten. Our Kindergarten day is 6.25 hours, so we are not able to stockpile snow days. I have been the director for 15 years and this is the first year we have had 7 snow days!

Marcy Tidwell told me we were accountable for making up 4 hours of each day missed. By taking back our first day of spring break, extending our last day of school to a full day and adding a half day, we have solved all but 12 hours. We would like to appeal for exemption from these last 12 hours ( 3 days). The majority of our families have older children in elementary schools who are not extending their school year. I feel if we did, it would be difficult on our families and our attendance would be very low. We are offering several late afternoons for Kindergarten enrichment this spring in order to do some of our "fun" science and math programs we missed during the snow.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of this request. We have a week of rain in Knoxville this week, but hopefully, next week will truly be a "spring" break!

Sincerely,  
Marty Troutman  
Director

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West Hills Baptist Preschool & Kindergarten  
409 N Winston Road  
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(865) 690-4251  
[wherechildrengrow.org](http://wherechildrengrow.org)