



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 30, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Eddie Pruett, Director of Schools
Gibson County Special School District
130 Hwy 45 W Box 60
Dyer, TN 38330

epruett@gcssd.org

Dear Mr. Pruett:

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 an instructional day for Gibson County Special School District. Pursuant to my above referenced authority, I hereby grant a waiver to Gibson County Special School District of one instructional day during the period of February 21-March 2, 2015. Please revise the calendar in EIS to indicate the one day that is 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

Eddie Pruett
Director of Schools



Phone: 731-692-3803
Fax: 731-692-4375

Creating Learning Communities
130 Trenton Highway · PO Box 60
Dyer, Tennessee 38330

Commissioner McQueen,

We missed a total of seven days due to inclement weather this school year. Those absences occurred during the Level 2 State of Emergency that was declared by Governor Haslam. Our local board includes six stockpile days that we can use for inclement weather. We also have two stockpile days that we use for embedded professional development. We did use one stockpile professional development day when we were out for snow which allowed us to pick up an extra instructional day. However, we still have one day that we still need to make up or waive. Therefore I am asking for you to waive one day. Due to the timing and length of the days out I feel like waiving those days is the best option for our district. We considered two options before we decided to ask for a waiver.

1. Take away a day from Spring Break. We have many parents and staff that already have plans. Therefore we felt like we would have low attendance and the level of instruction would not be rigorous.
2. We also discussed the option of adding a day to the end of the calendar year. Again we run into the same issues of attendance and level of rigorous instruction.

Based on those options we felt like asking for a waiver of the day would keep a classroom culture that is conducive for learning.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eddie Pruett
Director of Schools
Gibson County Special School District