



BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NINTH FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

LIZZETTE REYNOLDS
COMMISSIONER

Via Electronic Mail

January 28, 2025

Dr. Brandon Carpenter, Director of Schools
Carter County Schools
305 Hedrick Drive
Newport, TN 37821-9998
brandoncarpenter@carterk12.net

Dear Director Carpenter:

I have received your waiver request of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004 as it pertains to the required 180 days of classroom instruction. Carter County Schools were closed on the following dates due to the impact of Hurricane Helene. You are requesting a waiver for these nine days:

- September 26, 2024
- September 27, 2024
- September 30, 2024
- October 1, 2024
- October 2, 2024
- October 3, 2024
- October 4, 2024
- October 7, 2024
- October 8, 2024

Under Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004(a)(6), the commissioner has the authority to waive the 180 days for classroom instruction requirement in the event of a natural disaster or serious outbreaks of illness affecting or endangering students or staff. Pursuant to this authority, the waiver request for the above days is hereby granted.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner

From: [Brandon Carpenter](#)
To: [Kristen B. McKeever](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Waiver of Flood Days
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 6:58:05 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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I would like to request that the aforementioned flood days be waived. Thank you very much for all you have done to help us .

On Tuesday, January 28, 2025, Kristen B. McKeever <Kristen.B.McKeever@tn.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon Kathy,

The law requires that waiver requests come from the director of schools. Will you please have Director Carpenter confirm the request. An email is fine.

Thank you!



Kristen McKeever | Director of Operations and Logistics

Office of General Counsel

Andrew Johnson Tower

[710 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243](#)

(615) 887-1109

Kristen.B.McKeever@tn.gov

tn.gov/education

#TNBestforAll

We will set all students on a path to success.

From: Kathy Ledford <kathyledford@carterk12.net>

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 9:24 AM

To: Christy Ballard <Christy.Ballard@tn.gov>; Kristen B. McKeever <Kristen.B.McKeever@tn.gov>

Cc: Brandon Carpenter <brandoncarpenter@carterk12.net>; Danny McClain <dannymcclain@carterk12.net>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Waiver of Flood Days

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Good Morning Christy and Kristen,

I would like to respectfully request the waiver of the remaining nine (9) days we accrued during the flooding and devastation of Hurricane Helene. We have had ten (10) inclement weather days since the winter break in early January. Please waive the following:

- September 26, 2024
- September 27, 2024
- September 30, 2024
- October 1, 2024
- October 2, 2024
- October 3, 2024
- October 4, 2024
- October 7, 2024
- October 8, 2024

We will then use the stockpile days to cover nine of the inclement weather days we have had thus far during January (January 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 21, and 22). Our schools were also closed yesterday, January 23, but our school board met in a special called session yesterday afternoon and agreed to change at least three (3) of our previously scheduled Spring Break days to instructional days. Those days (March 10, 11, and 12) will now be added to our school calendar as instructional days to offset yesterday and any possible other inclement weather days we may encounter.

We sincerely appreciate all your help with this matter and your always quick response to our requests!

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Kathy Ledford
Student Information Manager
Carter County Schools
[386 TN-91 Suite B](#)
Elizabethton, TN 37643

Phone 423-547-8370

kathyledford@carterk12.net

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