



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 16, 2025

Manney Moore, Director of Schools
Cocke County Schools
305 Hedrick Drive
Newport, TN 37821-9998

Dear Director Moore:

I have received your waiver request of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004 as it pertains to the required 180 days of classroom instruction. Cocke County Schools were closed on September 27 and 30, 2024, October 1-4, 2024, and October 15, 2024 due to the impact of Hurricane Helene. You are requesting a waiver for these seven days:

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 September 27 and 30, 2024, October 1-4, 2024, and October 15, 2024 is hereby granted.

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

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner



January 16, 2025

Commissioner Reynolds,

I am writing to formally request a waiver for 7 days missed by Coke County Schools due to the recent flood events caused by Hurricane Helene. The hurricane significantly impacted our region, causing widespread damage and disruption.

Specifically, Coke County Schools were forced to close on the following dates:

- September 27, 2024
- September 30, 2024
- October 1-4, 2024
- October 15, 2024

We understand the importance of meeting state-mandated instructional days. However, the exceptional circumstances caused by Hurricane Helene necessitated the closure of our schools to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff.

We kindly request your approval of this waiver for the aforementioned school days. We appreciate your understanding and consideration of this extenuating circumstance.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Manney Moore
Director
Coke County Schools