



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

March 5, 2025

Kristi Hall, Director of Schools
Fentress County Schools
1011 Old Hwy 127 S
Jamestown, TN 38556
kristi.hall@fentressboe.com

Dear Director Hall:

I am in receipt of the March 5, 2025, waiver request of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004(i) as it relates to remote instruction. Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004(i)(1) allows school districts to provide up to two (2) days each semester of the required one hundred eighty (180) days of classroom instruction via remote instruction in the event of dangerous or extreme weather conditions or of serious outbreak of illness affecting or endangering students or staff. Additionally, Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004(i)(7) requires school districts to make meals available to students in accordance with the school nutrition program requirements on days that remote instruction is provided.

Fentress County Schools has exhausted two remote instruction days this semester, received a waiver for a third remote instruction day, and you are requesting to use a fourth remote instruction day on Thursday, March 6, 2025, if needed, due to extreme weather conditions. You have also requested a waiver of the requirement to serve meals on this remote instruction day.

Pursuant to the commissioner's waiver authority under Tenn. Code. Ann. § 49-1-201(d)(1), your request of a waiver of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004(i)(1) and Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004(i)(7) is hereby granted to allow the use of the aforementioned remote instruction day without the requirement to serve meals. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner

Local Education Agency Waiver Request

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated (T.C.A.) § 49-1-201(d), upon application by the local education agency (LEA) for one or more of its schools, the commissioner of education may waive any State Board of Education (SBE) rule or statute that inhibits or hinders the LEA's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission. Waivers may not be granted by the commissioner for regulatory or statutory requirements related to:

- (A) Federal and state civil rights;
- (B) Federal, state and local health and safety;
- (C) Federal and state public records;
- (D) Immunizations;
- (E) Possession of weapons on school grounds;
- (F) Background checks and fingerprinting of personnel;
- (G) Federal and state special education services;
- (H) Student due process;
- (I) Parental rights;
- (J) Federal and state student assessment and accountability;
- (K) Open meetings;
- (L) Educators' due process rights;
- (M) Reductions in teachers' salaries;
- (N) Employee rights, salaries and benefits; and
- (O) Licensure of employees.

LEAs applying for waivers must email this completed form to LEA.Waivers@tn.gov. Following review by the commissioner, the LEA will be notified in writing if the waiver request is approved or denied. Unless otherwise stated, all waivers granted by the commissioner shall be granted for one-year terms.

Fentress County

Local Education Agency

NA

School Name, if applicable

NA

School Address, if applicable

Kristi Hall March 5, 2025

Director of Schools Signature & Date

Kristi Hall March 5, 2025

Director of Schools Printed Name



List the statute or SBE rule for which a waiver is being requested.

T.C.A. § 49-6-3004 (i)(1)

T.C.A. § 46-6-3004 (i)(7)

Explanation of how the statute or SBE rule inhibits or hinders the LEA's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission.

Fentress County has utilized our snow days and 3 virtual days. The forecast for tomorrow in the Upper Cumberland shows the possibility of 1-2 inches of snow. Therefore, I am requesting a virtual instruction day if needed for tomorrow, March 6, 2025.

I am also requesting to waive the requirement to serve meals during this time.

I have included an attachment for additional information.

Thank you!

Expected duration of the condition necessitating this request.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 if needed.



Situation Report

Wednesday March 5, 2025
2:22 AM

Snow Makes a Return Tonight



Forecast Details

- A Winter Weather Advisory is in place for 1 to 3 inches of snow on the Cumberland Plateau between 6 pm tonight and 6 am Thursday morning
- Low (20-30%) chance of seeing more than 3 inches in a few spots
- Dusting to $\frac{1}{4}$ " elsewhere east of I-65
- Medium to high chance of hampered driving conditions on the Cumberland Plateau through noon on Thursday

Detailed Forecast Point

Graphical Hazardous Weather Outlook



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Nashville, TN