



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

February 25, 2025

Steve Starnes, Director of Schools
Greeneville City Schools
129 West Depot Street
Greeneville, TN 37743-1420
starness@gcschools.net

Dear Director Starnes:

I have received your waiver request of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004 as it pertains to the required 180 days of classroom instruction. Greeneville City Schools were closed on September 26, 27, and 30, 2024 and October 1-4, 2024, due to the impact of Hurricane Helene. You are requesting a waiver for two of those days, September 30, 2024, and October 1, 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 and given that Greeneville City Schools have exhausted all stockpile days, the waiver request for September 30, 2024, and October 1, 2024, is hereby granted.

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

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner



Steve Starnes, Ed.S.
Director of Schools
Richard Tipton, Ed.S.
Assistant Director for Instruction
Jason Horne, Ed.D.
Assistant Director for Administration

February 25, 2025,

Dear Commissioner Reynolds,

Greeneville City Schools was impacted by Hurricane Helene and experienced severe flooding along the Nolichucky River. The flooding destroyed homes and the water intake system that serves all the homes and businesses within the city and most homes and businesses within the county, as the Greeneville Water Commission supplies three other local utility systems with water.

Greeneville City Schools' approved calendar designated seven (7) stockpile days for inclement weather and six (6) days for professional development. Due to Hurricane Helene, Greeneville City Schools used all seven days (September 26, 27, and 30 and October 1, 2, 3, and 4) designated for inclement weather. Due to inclement weather (snow and ice) on February 19, 2025, and February 20, 2025, our district was closed in the interest of safety.

Since our inclement weather days were exhausted during Hurricane Helene and per the authority granted in TCA 49-6-3004 for natural disasters, we respectfully request that September 30, 2025, and October 1, 2025, be waived, allowing February 19 and 20 to be coded as stockpile inclement weather days. We are requesting September 30 and October 1 because September 26 and 27 have already been approved as waived days.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you for considering this request.

Respectfully,

Steve Starnes
Director of Schools

Cultivate the Mind and Impact the Heart through Excellence and Equity

Kathryn W. Leonard Administrative Office
129 W. Depot Street Greeneville, TN 37743-1420
(423) 787-8000 | <http://www.gcschools.net>