



BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

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

PENNY SCHWINN
COMMISSIONER

April 9, 2021

Electronic Mail

Mark Winningham, Director of Schools
Overton County Schools
302 Zachary Street
Livingston, Tennessee 38570

mwinningham2@overtoncountyschools.net

Dear Mr. Winningham,

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 during a school year, the commissioner of education may waive for that school year the requirement under subdivision (a)(1) of one hundred eighty (180) days of classroom instruction, if a request is submitted to the commissioner by the director of schools. The waiver request may be for the entire LEA or for individual schools within the LEA.

The Overton County school system has requested approval for the closure of schools on February 16 and 17, 2021 and is requesting that the use two instructional day be waived due to the ice storm that caused electricity outage and roads closed. Due to the ice storm and endangering students, the department is accepting this request to waive two instructional days for February 16 and 17, 2021.

Pursuant to my above referenced authority, I hereby grant a waiver to Overton County Schools for two instructional days for February 16 and 17, 2021. Please revise the calendar in EIS to indicate the change. Thank you for continuing to notify the Department of your needs related to your school calendar.

Sincerely,

Penny Schwinn, Ph.D.
Commissioner

Request for Waiver of Required Instructional Days

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 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.

1. **Date of Waiver Request:** April 1, 2021
2. **Local Education Agency (LEA):** Overton County Schools
3. **Name of Director of Schools (print):** Dr. Donnie Holman
4. **Number of Remaining Stockpile days (as of date of submission):** 0 Days

5. Specify the nature of the natural disaster or serious outbreaks of illness affecting or endangering your LEA's students or staff:

NOTE: 2020 Responses to March Tornadoes or COVID-19: If LEA is requesting waiver of instructional days due to either the March tornadoes or COVID-19 closures, please simply put these as the reasons in the description section below.

Overton County was one of the hardest hit districts during the February ice storm. Many of our residents were out of electricity for up to seven days. Some roads were impassable for long periods of time! Overton County was declared a state of emergency.

6. Attach your LEA's continuity of instruction plan (CIP) or specify below why your LEA is unable to make up the lost instructional days or implement a CIP.

OCS has delivered in-person instruction since August 7, 2020 with all grade levels. OCS was able to implement multiple days of hybrid/remote learning to all students during COVID-19 outbreaks. As recommended by our local health dept and E-911 director. Therefore, OCS is equipped to deliver additional days of hybrid/remote instructional learning that would be equitable to classroom instruction. The district's CIP was formulated to ensure that students would receive equitable instruction virtually rather than making up lost instructional days. We are requesting a waiver for 2 instructional days.

Dr. Donnie Holman

Director of School's Signature

4-1-21

Date