



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 3, 2025

Dr. James R. Jones, Director of Schools
Polk County Schools
P.O. Box 665
Benton, TN 37307
JJones@polkcountyschools.com

Dear Director Jones:

I have received your waiver request of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004 as it pertains to the required 180 days of classroom instruction. Polk County Schools were closed on January 10-22, 2025, due to the Level 3-State of Emergency. You are requesting a waiver for two of these 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 and given Polk County Schools have exhausted all stockpile days, the waiver request for January 10, 2025, and January 13, 2025, is hereby granted.

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

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner

From: [James Jones](#)
To: [LEA Waivers](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] waivers
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2025 2:33:19 PM

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Good afternoon Commissioner Reynolds,

Polk County requests a waiver of Tennessee Code Annotated 49-6-3004 as it pertains to the required 180 days of classroom instruction on the days that there was a Level 3 State of Emergency declared by Governor Lee. Polk County received approval for 11 stockpiled days to be used for inclement weather and 2 days for professional development.

Our district missed September 27 (tornado watches/warning), January 10 (snow), January 13-17(snow and ice), January 21-22 (extreme cold/icy conditions) February 7 and February 10 (excessive absence rate/illness/staffing shortage) February 19 (snow) Copper Basin Elementary and Copper Basin High School missed an additional day on September due to water line repair and no water in the school buildings.

Polk County missed 8 days during the Level 3 State of Emergency and we are requesting that 2 of those days be waived.

Thank you for your help.

Dr. James R. Jones
Director of Schools, Polk County