



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

April 8, 2025

Barry H. Smith, Director of Schools
Smith County Schools
126 Smith County Middle School Lane
Carthage, TN 37030-1879
smithb@smithcoedu.net

Dear Director Smith:

I have received your waiver request of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004 as it pertains to the required 180 days of classroom instruction. Smith County Schools were closed on April 3-4, 2025, due to extreme weather and the level 3 state of emergency. You are requesting a waiver for these two 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 that Smith County Schools have exhausted all stockpile days, the waiver request for April 3-4, 2025, is hereby granted.

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

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner

SMITH COUNTY SCHOOLS
126 Smith County Middle School Lane
Carthage, TN 37030

Barry H. Smith, Director of Schools
(615) 735-9625
(615) 735-8271 Fax

Dear Commissioner Reynolds,

I hope this message finds you well.

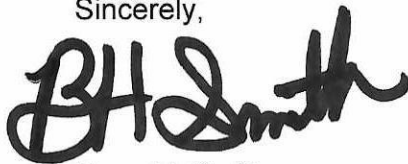
I am reaching out on behalf of Smith County Schools regarding the recent weather-related closures that have impacted our academic calendar. Due to multiple snow events, we have exceeded our thirteen allotted instructional stockpile days.

We are respectfully requesting a waiver for two additional days—April 3rd and 4th—as these dates coincided with a Level 3 State of Emergency declared by Governor Lee. The severe weather system that moved through our state during that time brought hazardous conditions that made it impossible to safely open our schools.

We fully understand and value the importance of instructional time; however, the safety of our students, staff, and families must come first. All decisions to close schools were made with careful consideration and in alignment with our commitment to protecting our school community.

Should you need any further details or documentation to support this request, please don't hesitate to let us know. We appreciate your time, understanding, and continued support of Tennessee's public schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BH Smith", written in a cursive, stylized font.

Barry H. Smith

