



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 20, 2021

Electronic Mail

Bob Thomas, Director of Schools
Knox County Schools
912 South Gay Street
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

bob.thomas@knoxschools.org

Dear Mr. Thomas,

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 Knox County school system has requested approval for the closure of Austin-East Magnet on August 10-14, 2020 due to COVID-19 related illness and is requesting that these five instructional days be waived. Due to the COVID-19 related illness and endangering students, the department is accepting this request to waive five instructional days for August 10-14, 2020.

Pursuant to my above referenced authority, I hereby grant a waiver to Knox County Schools for five instructional days for August 10-14, 2020. 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