

BILL LEE GOVERNOR

## STATE OF TENNESSEE **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**NINTH FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER

COMMISSIONER

IINTH FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER 710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

## **Via Electronic Mail**

February 20, 2025

Grant Swallows, Director of Schools Warren County Schools 2548 Morrison Street McMinnville, TN 37110-3617 swallowsg@warrenschools.com

## **Dear Director Swallows:**

I am in receipt of the February 20, 2025, waiver request of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004(i)(7) as it relates making meals available to students in accordance with the school nutrition program requirements on days that remote instruction is provided. You have requested a waiver of this requirement on February 21, 2025.

Pursuant to the commissioner's waiver authority under Tenn. Code. Ann. § 49-1-201(d)(1), your request of a waiver of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004(i)(7) to not serve meals on February 21, 2025, remote instruction day, is hereby granted. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds Commissioner

Tennessee Department of Education • Andrew Johnson Tower, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor • 710 James Robertson Parkway • Nashville, TN 37243 Tel: (615) 741-5158



## **Commissioner Lizette Reynolds**

Tennessee Department of Education 710 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, TN 37243

Subject: Request for Waiver of Meal Availability Requirement

Dear Commissioner Reynolds,

I am writing to formally request a waiver of the requirement to make meals available to students under Public Chapter 897. Due to the ongoing travel conditions across Warren County, it remains unsafe for staff and students to travel to designated meal distribution sites. To ensure the continuity of education, the Warren County School System plans to operate on a virtual learning day on Friday, February 21, 2025. While we are committed to serving our students in every way possible, the severe weather has created circumstances beyond our control, making compliance with the meal availability requirement a challenge. Ensuring the safety of our students, families, and school personnel must remain our highest priority.

We sincerely appreciate the flexibility and support that the Tennessee Department of Education has provided during this time. Your consideration of this waiver request would allow us to focus on safely resuming normal operations as soon as conditions permit. Thank you for your leadership and for any assistance you can provide in addressing this urgent matter. Please let me know if any additional information is required to support this request.

Sincerely,

Grant Swallows
Director of Schools