



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

January 28, 2025

Jerry S. Boyd, Director of Schools
Washington County Schools
405 W. College Street
Jonesborough, TN 37659

Dear Director Boyd:

I have received your waiver request of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004 as it pertains to the required 180 days of classroom instruction. Washington County Schools were closed on September 26, 27, and 30, 2024, and October 1-4, 2024, due to the impact of Hurricane Helene. You are requesting a waiver for these seven 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, the waiver request for September 26, 27 and 30, 2024, and October 1-4, 2024, is hereby granted.

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

Sincerely,

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner

Jerry S. Boyd
Superintendent



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Via Electronic Mail

January 27, 2025

Lizzette Reynolds, Commissioner of Education
Tennessee Department of Education
Ninth Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0375

Dear Commissioner Reynolds,

Washington County Schools was significantly impacted by the destruction caused by Hurricane Helene in late September/Early October 2024. The southern portion of our county was devastated by the flooding of the Nolichucky River, resulting in the loss of many homes, farms, and infrastructure. As a result of the disaster caused by Hurricane Helene, all schools were closed a total of seven (7) instructional days: *September 26, 27, and 30, 2024, in addition to October 1 - 4, 2024*. As of today, Monday, January 27, 2025, we have utilized all (13) of our stockpiled days for inclement weather as approved in the 2024-2025 school year calendar.

On behalf of our school system and community, I request a waiver of the instructional day requirement under Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004 as it pertains to the required 180 days of classroom instruction and your authority to waive such requirements in the event of a natural disaster or a serious outbreak of illness or other conditions that endanger students and employees. I am specifically requesting the waiver for the seven (7) days missed as indicated above due to the natural disaster. As we are early in the winter months, I anticipate additional days that will be missed due to inclement weather. The waiver of the seven instructional days missed due to Hurricane Helene will hopefully provide us sufficient resources to address anticipated missed instructional days due to inclement weather.

Respectfully,

Jerry S. Boyd
Superintendent