



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
9th FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

CANDICE MCQUEEN
COMMISSIONER

March 12, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Dr. Kevin Ward, Director of Schools
Carter County Schools
305 Academy Street
Elizabethton, TN 37643

kevinward@k12tn.net

Dear Dr. Ward:

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, the commissioner of education may waive the requirement for school district calendars to include one hundred eighty (180) days of classroom instruction for the current school year.

On February 21, Governor Haslam declared a Level 2 State of Emergency – Major Disaster – due to the extreme weather conditions throughout the state. This State of Emergency extended through March 2, representing six school days. Because of the unique and rare circumstances of our recent weather and the impact on school districts throughout the state, and because of the Level 2 State of Emergency declaration, the department is accepting requests to waive a maximum number of three instructional days during the period of February 21-March 2, 2015.

You have submitted a request to waive instructional days for Carter County Schools. Pursuant to my above referenced authority, I hereby grant a waiver to Carter County Schools of three instructional days during the period of February 21-March 2, 2015. Please revise the calendar in EIS to indicate the three days that are waived. Thank you for continuing to notify the Department of revisions to your school calendar.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Candice McQueen".

Dr. Candice McQueen



Carter County
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Kevin Ward, Director of Schools
Peggy Campbell, Assistant Director
Lindsey Feathers, Executive Secretary

To: Commissioner Dr. Candice McQueen

From: Kevin Ward, Ed.D.

Date: March 11, 2015

Re: Waiver Request

The purpose of this correspondence is to request the consideration of alterations to our 2014-2015 school calendar. Due to hazardous weather, Carter County Schools were closed for a total of eighteen (18) instructional days (11/18/2014, 1/16, 1/26, 1/27, 1/28, 1/30, 2/3, 2/17, 2/18, 2/19, 2/20, 2/23, 2/24, 2/25, 2/26, 2/27, 3/5 and 3/6/2015). Five (5) of the instructional days listed above occurred during Governor Haslam's declared Level 2 State of Emergency time period of February 21st through February 27th.

We initially had thirteen (13) stockpiled days built into our calendar. Of these stockpiled days, 10 (10) were originally set aside as inclement weather days, and the remaining three (3) were built into our schedule as professional development days. Due to the above-mentioned weather, we exceeded our allotted inclement weather days.

One (1) of the professional development days had already been taken prior to the extreme weather. The Tennessee Department of Education granted permission to amend our calendar as follows: The two (2) remaining professional development days were converted to regular instructional days giving us twelve (12) inclement weather days. Additionally, four (4) of the designated spring break days were converted to regular instructional days. These changes kept us even. We then proceeded to miss two (2) more days due to weather.

As a result, we are requesting a waiver for three of the five days missed during the State of Emergency time period.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin Ward, Ed.D.

Director of Carter County Schools

Paul Rainwater

From: Lindsey Feathers <lindseyfeathers@k12tn.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 7:47 AM
To: Paul Rainwater
Subject: Re: Carter County Schools District Calendar
Attachments: Carter County School System's Waiver Request.pdf

***** This is an EXTERNAL email. Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - OIR-Security. *****

I have attached the waiver request from the Carter County School System. Would you like for me to mail the hard copy?

From: "Paul Rainwater" <Paul.Rainwater@tn.gov>
To: "Lindsey Feathers" <lindseyfeathers@k12tn.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2015 8:38:19 AM
Subject: RE: Carter County Schools District Calendar

Lindsey,
Good Tuesday morning.

Please see the attachment from the Commissioner of Education concerning the possible waiver of instructional days for 2014-15 due to bad weather.

Thank you. Have a good week.
Paul

Paul Rainwater

Tennessee Department of Education

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Lindsey Feathers
Executive Secretary
Carter County School System
305 Academy Street
Elizabethton, TN 37643