



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 9, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Dr. Vicki Violette, Director of Schools
Clinton City Schools
212 North Hicks Street
Clinton, TN 37716

violettev@clintonschools.org

Dear Dr. Violette:

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candice McQueen".

Dr. Candice McQueen

CLINTON CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

212 North Hicks Street • Clinton, TN 37716
Telephone: (865) 457-0159 • Fax: (865) 463-0668
www.clintonschools.org



March 9, 2015

Dr. Candice McQueen
Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Education
9th Floor- Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37242

Dear Dr. McQueen:

Pursuant to Tennessee law, Clinton City Schools would like to formally request a Tennessee State Department of Education waiver for the annual 180-day instructional requirement. Our area has experienced unique and extreme weather conditions this winter, which has forced us to cancel school beyond our allotted ten stockpile days for inclement weather.

In the approved 2014-2015 School Calendar, our district originally had a total of thirteen stockpile days. Ten of these days were for inclement weather, and three days were allotted for Professional Development for our staff members. Our three Professional Development days occurred on November 4th, January 5th, and February 13th. Due to the weather conditions in our area and in an abundance of caution for the safety of our students and staff members, Clinton City Schools were closed on the following dates:

January 16 th	February 24 th
February 17 th	February 25 th
February 18 th	February 26 th
February 19 th	February 27 th
February 20 th	March 5 th
February 23 rd	March 6 th

Our school district has now exceeded the allotted inclement weather days by two days.

We could possibly convert our last In-service Day scheduled for April 6, 2015, to an instructional day. However, we have already secured a venue and arranged a Professional Development speaker from Battelle For Kids to come and train teachers on this day. The topic will be on *Aligning Formative Assessments to Tennessee State Standards Instruction*. The estimated cost of this day is approximately

\$1700, of which our district could lose if we cancel this Professional Development opportunity. The information covered in this presentation is critical to our forward progression with Tennessee State Standards instruction and the TNReady Assessment. Also, since this is the day after Easter and many of our families have already planned out-of-town trips, our attendance would probably not be optimal on this day.

Our only other options for making up these days would be to take days during Spring Break or adding days to the end of the year for instruction. We do not feel that attendance would be adequate on these days for effective instruction due to the fact that many families have already made plans for vacation during these time frames. Additionally, with Spring Break next week (March 16-20), we do not feel that adequate notice could be given to alter the plans of student families or staff members who have already planned out-of-town trips.

It is a rare occurrence that Tennessee is declared a Level 2 State of Emergency. We have tried to use our ten inclement weather days with caution as we want our students to be in the classroom as much as possible. However, this year has presented unprecedented challenges. We are appreciative that the Tennessee State Department of Education is considering request for waivers from districts across our state.

If we can provide you with any additional information on which to base your decision to waiver two instructional days for Clinton City Schools, please let me know. We look forward to hearing your decision concerning our request as soon as possible.

Respectfully,



Dr. Vicki Violette
Director of Schools
Clinton City Schools
212 North Hicks Street
Clinton, Tennessee 37716
(865) 457-0225
violettev@clintonschools.org

Paul Rainwater

From: Commissioner McQueen
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 2:33 PM
To: Christy Ballard; Paul Rainwater
Subject: FW: Request for Instructional Day Waiver
Attachments: Request for Waiver of Instructional Days - Clinton City Schools.pdf

From: Vicki Violette [<mailto:violettev@clintonschools.org>]
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 1:59 PM
To: Commissioner McQueen
Subject: Request for Instructional Day Waiver

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

Commissioner McQueen,

Attached is a letter requesting a waiver for two Instructional Days due to the inclement weather we have experienced in our area. Please advise me of your decision regarding our request.

Vicki Violette

Dr. Vicki Violette
Director of Schools
Clinton City Schools
212 North Hicks Street
Clinton, Tennessee 37716
Phone: (865) 457-0225
Fax: (865) 463-0668
violettev@clintonschools.org

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, please be advised that you have received this message in error and that any use, dissemination, printing, or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please permanently delete it from your computer system and contact the sender at the above address and/or telephone number.