



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 19, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Manney Moore, Director of Schools
Cocke County Schools
305 Hedrick Drive
Newport, TN 37821-9998

moorem@mail.cocke.k12.tn.us

Dear Mr. Moore:

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 Cocke County Schools. Pursuant to my above referenced authority, I hereby grant a waiver to Cocke 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

March 19, 2015

Candice McQueen, Ph.D.
Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Education

RE: Waiver of Instructional Days

Commissioner McQueen,

The Cocke County Board of Education is requesting that three (3) instructional days be waived due to inclement weather cancellations during the Level 2 State of Emergency issued for the week of February 21, 2015. Please waive the instructional requirement for the following days; February 23, 24, and 25. The following documentation is provided as requested.

1. The specific circumstances leading to the request:

Cocke County Schools has exceeded the inclement weather stockpiled days by nine (9). As of close of school on Friday, March 6, 2015 and due to inclement weather, the school system has missed fourteen (14) instructional days one (1) staff development day.

2. The number of stockpiled days designated in the district calendar and the use of these stockpiled days;

For the 2014-15 school year Cocke County Schools had:

- Five (5) Stockpiled/Inclement Weather Days
- One (1) stockpiled/Staff Development Days – missed
- Cocke County Schools will make up days number 6 – 10 on May 21, 22, 26, 27, and 28
- Cocke County Schools will make up day # 11 by extending the day by fifteen more minutes from March 16 through April 29.
- Cocke County schools will make up the 1 stockpiled staff development day that was missed by having teachers document time during Professional Learning Communities after school to accumulate 6 hours.

3. The inability of the district to make up the instructional days

- Dated Graduation Announcements have been printed
- The Walters State Community College Facility has been rented for Cocke County High and Cosby High School graduation and there is no facility large enough in Cocke County to host the event. By receiving the three (3) day waiver disruptions to the scheduled graduation will be prevented.
- Cocke County Schools is already making up the staff development day during afterschool hours
- One instructional day is already being made up by adding on 15 minutes to the school instructional day.
- Five school days have already been added to the school calendar at the end of the year.

Respectfully,

Manney Moore
Director
Cocke County Schools

Paul Rainwater

From: Casey Kelley <ckelley@mail.cocke.k12.tn.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 1:12 PM
To: Paul Rainwater
Subject: Cocke County Schools Waiver Request
Attachments: Waiver Request.docx

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

Please see attached file requesting a waiver for the Cocke County School System

Thanks,

Casey Kelley
Supervisor
Cocke County Schools
423-237-5730 cell
423-623-7179 ext. 16