



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

**BILL HASLAM**  
GOVERNOR

**CANDICE MCQUEEN**  
COMMISSIONER

March 23, 2015

***Via Electronic Mail***

Dr. Rebecca Sharber, Director of Schools  
Franklin County Schools  
215 South College Street  
Winchester, TN 37398

[rebecca.sharber@fcstn.net](mailto:rebecca.sharber@fcstn.net)

Dear Dr. Sharber:

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 an instructional day for Franklin County Schools. Pursuant to my above referenced authority, I hereby grant a waiver to Franklin County Schools of one instructional day during the period of February 21-March 2, 2015. Please revise the calendar in EIS to indicate the one day that is 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

Franklin County  
Board Of Education

215 South College Street  
Winchester, TN 37398

Telephone (931) 967-0626  
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Director Of Schools  
Rebecca S. Sharber, Ed.D.

March 20, 2015

Commissioner Candace McQueen  
Tennessee Department of Education  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower  
Nashville, TN 37243-0375

Dear Commissioner McQueen,

I am writing to request relief related to a waiver of instructional days due to the unusual weather in Tennessee during February. I am asking for a waiver of one instructional day. Our district is able to stockpile 13 days each year because our daily schedule is longer than the state law-required school day. We requested the use of 3 of those days for additional staff development and were approved for those. That left our district with 10 inclement weather days. We used those 10 days under the following circumstances:

- January 14, 2015 – temperatures which were expected to stay in the single digits for the entire day and concern for children waiting on buses;
- February 17, 18, 19, 20 – one week of ice and snow which stayed on the roads and made travel too dangerous for students and for most personnel;
- February 23, 24, 25, 26 – ice remaining on roads, new snow storm, all of which made travel too dangerous for students and most personnel;
- March 5 – the worst ice and snow that we had received during the season.

On March 6, the roads had not cleared enough to safely have children return to school. That was day eleven. If the weather had not made travel so dangerous during the Level 2 State of Emergency, we would not need to make this request.

Our school year ends for students on May 28 and for teachers on May 29. Our spring break is March 30 through April 3. It was not feasible to make up this one day during spring break because too many families had plans that would have been difficult to cancel. Although Memorial Day would be an option for making up this day, I believe that at this point, many families will have made plans that would be difficult to cancel and attendance on Memorial Day would not be very good. We could extend the school year for students by having them attend on May 29 and then have teachers attend on June 1. However, there will be some teachers who will have made summer plans beginning on that day. Therefore, for these reasons, it would be difficult to make up this one day that we have missed beyond those allowed for inclement weather and we are requesting a waiver for one day of instruction.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca S. Sharber, Ed.D.  
Director of Schools