



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 18, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Jason Vance, Director of Schools
Loudon County Schools
100 River Road
Loudon, TN 37774

vancej@loudoncounty.org

Dear Mr. Vance:

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 Loudon County Schools. Pursuant to my above referenced authority, I hereby grant a waiver to Loudon 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 black ink that reads "Candice McQueen".
Dr. Candice McQueen

LOUDON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

JASON VANCE

100 River Road, Loudon, TN 37774
Phone: 866-458-5411 Fax: 866-458-6138

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March 17, 2015

Dear Commissioner McQueen:

As Director of the Loudon County School System, I would like to request a waiver of three (3) instructional days pursuant to T.C.A. §49-6-3004. Loudon County has eleven (11) stockpiled days built in to our calendar, and at this time, we have exhausted that supply.

At the end of January, our school system experienced a large outbreak of sickness. We had over 17% of students absent in our district, and in one of our schools, the number was in excess of 50%. At that point, we made the decision to close school for two days—January 29, 2015, and January 30, 2015—to get everyone healthy and back in school.

On February 16, 2015, Loudon County was hit with an ice storm. Therefore, we missed February 17 – February 20, 2015. This was four (4) more school days and brought us to six (6) total missed.

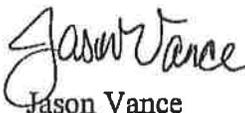
We returned to school on Monday, February 23, 2015, and then a snowstorm hit in the early morning hours of February 24, 2015 and on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, another snowstorm hit. That one brought an additional six (6) inches. Due to the speed with which the storms hit, the fact that they were back to back, and the dangerous road conditions created by them, we had to close schools Tuesday – Friday, February 24 – 27, 2015. This was an additional four (4) days, bringing us to a total of 10 days used.

The last round of winter precipitation moved through our area on Thursday, March 5, 2015, resulting in schools being closed. We currently have used our entire allotment of 11 stockpiled days.

Our calendar includes two (2) days to use to make up inclement weather days if we exceed our stockpiled days. Those two days are marked for Staff Development, unless they are used to make up days. Unfortunately, all of our Staff Development days had already past when the last two storms hit. This will make it difficult on us to put in any other instructional days into our calendar.

We would like to request the waiver of three (3) days. We hope to not use them at all, however, last spring our county experienced severe weather that resulted in school closures. We hope to be proactive in utilizing the variance that the state has provided at this time.

Sincerely,



Jason Vance
Director of Schools

Paul Rainwater

From: Mike Garren <garrenm@loudoncounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 8:02 AM
To: Paul Rainwater
Cc: Jason Vance; Mike Garren
Subject: Inclement Weather Waiver Request
Attachments: Inclement Weather Waiver Loudon County.pdf

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Paul,

We have attached a waiver request for state consideration. Please let me know if you need additional information.

Thanks,

Michael Garren
Assistant Director of Schools
Loudon County Schools
100 River Road
Loudon, TN 37774
(865) 458-5411 X1004
(865) 458-6138 FAX
garrenm@loudoncounty.org

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