



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 13, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Dr. Edd Diden, Director of Schools
Morgan County Schools
136 Flat Fork Road
Wartburg, TN 37887

didene@mcsed.net

Dear Dr. Diden:

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



"Success for All"

Morgan County Schools

136 Flat Fork Road, Wartburg, TN 37887

Dr. Edward Diden, Director of Schools
Mrs. Wanda Lane, Assistant Director of Schools

Central Office Phone: (423) 346-6214

Fax: (423) 346-6043
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March 12, 2015

Dr. Candice McQueen
Commissioner of Education
Tennessee Department of Education

Commissioner McQueen:

On behalf of the Morgan County Board of Education, I would respectfully request the waiver of three instructional days this year due to the severity of the weather. Morgan County is located along the eastern escarpment of the Cumberland Plateau. The combination of snow, ice, and bitter cold temperatures played havoc on our school schedule. To date, our district has missed sixteen (16) days due to these conditions.

For the 2014-15 school calendar (see attached), our district used three (3) of the possible 13 accrued days for professional development. The application of the remaining ten (10) accrued days to the sixteen (16) leaves us six (6) days short. Other make-up options such as extended day, use of Spring Break, and Saturday sessions are problematic at best.

If this waiver request is approved, the staff development day of April 17, 2015 would become a school day and the two (2) remaining days would be added at the end of the current calendar. May 21 and 22 would become school days, and the last abbreviated day would be on Saturday, May 23. The administrative day would be completed by teachers in two separate evening sessions during this last week.

If you have questions about this request, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Edward L. Diden, Ed.D.
Director of Schools

Attachment

**Morgan County Schools
2014-2015 School Calendar**

July 29In-service—individual schools (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
July 30In-service—countywide (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
July 31In-service—countywide (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
August 1In-service—countywide (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
August 4Administrative day (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
August 5First day of school—students dismiss at 11:30 a.m. (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for staff)
August 6Administrative day (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
August 7Second day of school
September 1Labor Day holiday
September 2Staff Development day (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
September 11Progress Reports
October 13-17Fall Break
October 21Report Cards
October 23Parent-Teacher Conference (3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)
November 20Progress Reports
November 26-28Thanksgiving holiday
December 19End of 1st Semester—students dismiss at 11:30 a.m. (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for staff)
Dec. 22-Jan. 2Christmas Break
January 5Administrative day (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
January 16Staff Development day (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
January 19MLK Holiday
February 10Progress Reports
February 12Parent-Teacher Conference (3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)
February 16Presidents' Day holiday
March 17Report Cards
March 30-April 3Spring Break
April 17Staff Development day (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
April 21Progress Reports
May 21Administrative day (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
May 22Last day of School—students and staff dismiss at 11:30 a.m.

Paul Rainwater

From: Edd Diden <didene@mcsed.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 3:24 PM
To: Paul Rainwater
Subject: Morgan County Waiver Request
Attachments: Extreme Weather Waiver Request - Commissioner McQueen.pdf

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

Mr. Rainwater:

The attachment contains our district waiver request for the three instructional days due to severe weather. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

If you have questions, please contact me.

Best Regards,
Edd

Edward L. Diden, Ed.D
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