



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 3, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Denise Brown, Director of Schools
Unicoi County Schools
100 Nolichucky Avenue
Erwin, TN 37650

brown@unicoischools.com

Dear Ms. Brown:

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

UNICOI COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

100 NOLICHUCKY AVE. • ERWIN, TN 37650 • PHONE: (423) 743-1600 • FAX: (423) 743-1615
DENISE H. BROWN, DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS "Working for Children"



Commissioner: Dr. Candice McQueen
TN Department of Education
710 James Robertson Parkway
Andrew Johnson Tower, 6th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Commissioner McQueen,

Unicoi County Schools (District 860) experienced events (large snowfall and ice) on the following days

11/14/2014	2/17/2015
11/18/2014	2/18/2015
1/8/2015	2/19/2015
1/26/2015	2/20/2015
1/27/2015	2/23/2015
1/28/2015	2/24/2015
1/30/2015	2/25/2015
2/3/2015	2/26/2015
	2/27/2015

Our 2014-2015 calendar has 13 stockpiled inclement weather days built into the schedule. We missed the fourteenth day on 2/24/2015 because of the snow storms. We are requesting that days 2/25/2015, 2/26/2015, 2/27/2015 be waived pursuant to TCA 49-6-3004 part (a) section 6. We are requesting that the 180 day requirement be waived for all schools in the county. This is during the Level 2 State of Emergency declaration.

The code says that:

In the event of a natural disaster or serious outbreaks of illness affecting or endangering students or staff during a school year, the commissioner of education may waive for that school year the requirement under subdivision (a)(1) of one hundred eighty (180) days of classroom instruction, if a request is submitted to the commissioner by the director of schools. The waiver request may be for the entire LEA or for individual schools within the LEA.

We are already planning on rescheduling a professional development day to an Instructional Day but that day is after TCAP testing and will not provide benefits for the current year. Our attendance on Saturdays has historically been very low causing our teachers to have to re-teach the content to the students.


Tommy Clouse

Transportation Supervisor
Unicoi County Schools


Denise H. Brown

Unicoi County Schools offer educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, or disability.