



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 10, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Jerry Strong, Director of Schools
Clay County Schools
520 South Brown Street
Celina, TN 38551

strongj@k12tn.net

Dear Mr. Strong:

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

Clay County Schools

Jerry Strong, Director

P.O. Box 469, 520 Brown Street

Celina, Tennessee 38551

Phone: 931-243-3310 Fax: 931-243-3706

Anthony Smith
Todd Upton
Benji Bailey
Veda Hix

Board Members:
David West, Chair
Chris McLerran, Vice-Chair

Todd Lynn
Christina Crawford
Nathan Sherrell
Vonda Weir

Commissioner McQueen:

Clay County Schools had thirteen stockpiled days. We have been out of school a total of sixteen days. All of those days have been used because of extreme winter weather conditions. School was closed two of those days as a result of frigid single digit temperatures with high temperatures only reaching the low teens. The remaining days were snow related episodes. During the same time frame the Governor declared a state of emergency the Celina K-8 school was in great disrepair with leaks and water damage. Additionally, local law enforcement and emergency personnel strongly advised everyone possible to stay in their homes and off of the roads.

1. The specific circumstances leading to the request:

The specific circumstances leading to this request are the damage to the Celina K-8 building and the extreme weather conditions.

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

All stockpiled days were used for inclement weather. We did not use any of them for Professional Development.

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

We are unable to make up these days because our plans are to start repairing the roof on the building at Celina K-8 as soon as the school year ends.

Paul Rainwater

From: Jerry Strong <strongj@k12tn.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 08, 2015 8:39 PM
To: Candice McQueen; Paul Rainwater
Cc: Carrie Dodson
Subject: Clay County's Request for 3 day Waiver
Attachments: Request fo Waiver.doc

Importance: High

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

Please find attached Clay County Schools' waiver request for three days.

Jerry L. Strong

Director of Schools
Clay County

Telephone
931-243-5514 Office
931-319-4274 Cell

"The mission of Clay County Schools is to provide a positive learning environment in which students develop to their fullest potential, achieve success, and are prepared to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world."