



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 11, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Mickey Blevins, Director of Schools
McMinn County Schools
3 South Hill Street
Athens, TN 37303

mblevins@mcmminnschools.com

Dear Mr. Blevins:

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



McMinn County Schools

3 South Hill Street
Athens, Tennessee 37303

March 10, 2015

Director of Schools
Mickey Blevins

Board of Education
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Commissioner Candice McQueen
Tennessee Department of Education
9th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Waiver Request

Ms. McQueen:

Please accept my formal request of a wavier for three (3) instructional days our school system lost due to recent inclement weather.

McMinn County Schools missed the entire week of February 23-27 due to the snow/weather crises that moved into our area causing the governor to declare the state of emergency.

McMinn County stockpiles thirteen (13) days annually. Three (3) of the stockpiled days in the approved 2014/15 school calendar were designated as Staff Development/Stockpiled days and have already been utilized.

McMinn County uses ten (10) days in reserve for illness/weather days. The system has now missed eleven (11) days because of illness/weather. We do not have any stockpiled or in-service days remaining that can be used to make up instructional days. The remaining scheduled school closing dates for this year are dedicated to Spring Break with the last day of student instruction being May 22, 2015. Therefore, we respectfully submit this request and appreciation your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mickey Blevins
Director of Schools

Paul Rainwater

From: Kim Bivens <kbivens@mcmminnschools.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 4:11 PM
To: Paul Rainwater
Subject: Waiver Request
Attachments: MCMINN Co. Waiver Request.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,

I do not have an email address for the office of Commissioner McQueen and did not find anything but a phone number on the website. We have our prepared letter requesting a waiver of the instructional days to submit to her office. I have attached this for you, as well.

If you will forward me her contact email, I can forward the attached to her office.

Thank you for your assistance,
Kim Bivens

Kim Bivens

Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

McMinn County Schools

www.mcminn.k12.tn.us

McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence

3 South Hill Street Athens, TN 37303

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