



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

Connie Holdway, Director of Schools
Claiborne County Schools
1403 Tazewell Road
Tazewell, TN 37879

holdwayc@k12tn.net

Dear Ms. Holdway:

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



Connie B. Holdway
Director of Schools

Claiborne County School District

2014-2015 School Calendar Waiver Request for Inclement Weather

1. The specific circumstances leading to the request;

Due to the excessive inclement winter weather, Claiborne County School District has **missed a total of 17 (seventeen) instructional school days.**

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

Claiborne County School District has 10 (ten) inclement weather days and 3 (three) Stockpiled Professional Development days (August 29, 2014, March 30, 2015, and March 31, 2015), built into the district's calendar. The district has utilized the 10 inclement weather days. The August 29, 2014 Stockpiled Professional Development day has already been utilized with a Clinch Powell In-service/Workshop that involved several counties. The district has requested and received approval from Mr. Paul Rainwater to convert the March 30, 2015 and March 31, 2015 Stockpiled Professional Development days to inclement weather days and use them as instructional days.

With the 10 inclement weather days and 2 Stockpiled Professional Development days being used, this leaves the district with 5 (five) total days to make-up.

Claiborne County School District's Spring Break Holiday is April 1-3, 2015. The district will be converting April 1 and April 2, 2015 to instructional days to make up 2 (two) of the 5 (five) days.

3. The district's inability to make up the instructional days.

Graduation for seniors has been set for May 22, 2015 and location arrangements have been made in advance for ceremonies for both Claiborne and Cumberland Gap High Schools. Seniors have ordered dated graduation materials/invitations that cannot be redone without excessive fees and costs. Therefore adding days to the end of the district calendar poses a financial burden on students. This leads to the district's inability to make up the instructional days for all students.

Paul Rainwater

From: Rhonda Epperson <eppersonr2@k12tn.net>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 9:18 AM
To: Candice McQueen
Cc: Paul Rainwater; Connie Holdway
Subject: Claiborne County Waiver Request for Inclement Weather
Attachments: Waiver Request 3.13.15 on Letter head.docx

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

Attached is the waiver request to waive 3 days of inclement weather as directed by Commissioner McQueen.

Please notify on approval.

Thank you,
Rhonda Epperson

--

Rhonda Epperson
Attendance Supervisor
Claiborne County (130)
423-626-3543 ext. 2214
eppersonr2@k12tn.net