



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
9<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER  
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

**BILL HASLAM**  
GOVERNOR

**CANDICE MCQUEEN**  
COMMISSIONER

March 13, 2015

***Via Electronic Mail***

James Carter, Director of Schools  
Union County Schools  
3006 Maynardville Hwy  
Maynardville, TN 37807

[carterj@ucps.org](mailto:carterj@ucps.org)

Dear Mr. Carter:

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

# Union County Public Schools Waiver Request

## **1. The specific circumstances leading to the request:**

Union County Public School district has missed a total of 14 (fourteen) instructional days due to excessive inclement winter weather and 2 (two) instructional days due to severe outbreak of illness.

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

Union County Public School district has 13 (thirteen) stockpiled days: 10 (ten) inclement weather days and 3 (three) stockpiled Professional Development days (August 7, August 29, November 3).

The district has utilized all 10 inclement weather days, leaving us with 4 (four) outstanding days to be made up for weather and 2 (2) for illness.

## **3. The District's inability to make up the instructional days:**

The Union County Board of Education has approved for March 16 and March 17 to be changed from spring break holidays to instructional days to make up the 2 (two) days missed due to illness. The Board has also approved to change Friday, April 3 from Good Friday student/teacher holiday to an instructional day. This will make up 2 (two) days for illness and 1 (one) for weather leaving us with 3 (three) additional instructional days to make up.

We have already changed 3 (three) student/teacher holidays to instructional days which has been a hardship for some teachers and parents that plan outside appointments and activities around the approved original school calendar. In addition, graduation for Union County High School students is scheduled for May 15, 2015. Deposits for venue and student materials/ invitations have already been paid, and it would be a financial burden on parents and the school to change the date of graduation if we added days to the end of the school year. Thus, Union County Public School district has no feasible means to make up these 3 (three) instructional days without requiring students to attend school on Saturdays.

## Paul Rainwater

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**From:** James Carter <carterj@ucps.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2015 1:14 PM  
**To:** Paul Rainwater  
**Subject:** Waiver Request  
**Attachments:** Waiver - Union County Public Schools.doc

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Mr. Rainwater,

Please see the attached request for waiver for Union County Public Schools. I appreciate your consideration and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,



Director, Union County Public Schools  
P O Box 10  
Maynardville, TN 37807  
[carterj@ucps.org](mailto:carterj@ucps.org)  
865-992-5466

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