



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NINTH FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

CANDICE MCQUEEN
COMMISSIONER

May 1, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Dr. Mike Looney, Director
Williamson County Schools
1320 West Main Street, Suite 202
Franklin, TN 37064-3700
mike.looney@wcs.edu

Dear Dr. Looney:

I am in receipt of your April 21 2015 letter requesting the approval of a waiver to allow all Williamson County high schools, middle schools and, two elementary schools to implement a "Power Monday" initiative for the 2015-16 school year. The Department has previously approved this concept for all Williamson County High Schools. You propose to implement the initiative by adding seven minutes to the end of the each school day for participating schools during the 2015-16 school year. Students would begin school forty-five (45) minutes later than normal one time per week during the year. The extra minutes would be used to allow students to begin school forty-five (45) minutes later than usual on twenty-two (22) Mondays during the school year so that teachers could use the time to come together for professional development opportunities.

As in the past, a waiver is not necessary. Tennessee Code Ann. §49-6-3004(e) (1), provides that the commissioner may approve proposals for use of excess instructional time for professional development. Additionally, the statute gives the commissioner the authority to approve directly proportional variations from the one-half-hour extension of the school day and the corresponding accumulation of thirteen (13) days of adjustments to the instructional time requirements. It is under this authority, that I approve your use of the excess instructional time to implement the above referenced Power Monday initiative at your high schools, middle schools, and two elementary schools for the 2015-2016 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candice McQueen".

Dr. Candice McQueen

Mike Looney, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
1320 West Main Street, Suite 202
Franklin, TN 37064-3700
(615) 472-4003
Fax (615) 595-4943



April 21, 2015

Commissioner Candice McQueen
Tennessee Department of Education
710 James Robertson Parkway
9th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower
Nashville, TN 37243-0375

Dear Commissioner McQueen:

Previously, Tennessee Education Commissioners have granted a waiver of the rules of the Tennessee Department of Education to allow all Williamson County secondary schools to continue an initiative to help increase the academic success of their students. We are requesting continued approval of the implementation of a *late start schedule*, termed "Power Monday", whereby our high schools, middle schools, and two elementary schools extend their school day each day by seven minutes. They use these extra minutes to allow the students to begin school 45 minutes later than usual on 22 Mondays during the school year. The adjustment to the Monday schedule allows teachers to meet in curriculum clusters to develop common course objectives, pacing guides, implementation charts, common assessments of student learning and other professional development. Students who need to be at school at the normal time on these Mondays are appropriately supervised by support and administrative staff and are offered a number of activities. The students' time on task remain the same over the course of the year, only the time per day is affected.

The Power Monday concept has been very successful at our secondary schools over the last seven school years. Our secondary principals and some elementary principals desire to continue this kind of professional development. Therefore, I am asking that all high schools and middle schools along with two elementary schools in our district be able to add 7 minutes to the end of their school day each day during the year for 2015-2016. Students would begin school 45 minutes later than normal, one time a week during the year.

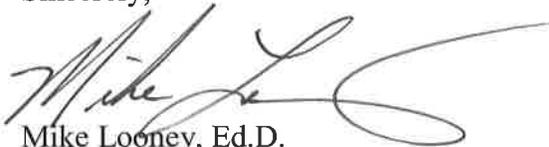
The dates that we anticipate using as late start days are **Aug. 24, Aug. 31, Sept. 14, Sept. 21, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, Nov. 16, Dec. 7 for first semester. Second semester will be Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 22, Feb. 29, Mar. 7, Mar. 14,**

Apr. 4, Apr. 11, Apr. 18, and April 25. If students need to be at school at the normal time on these days, they will be appropriately supervised.

I am requesting that portions of TRRMS 0520-1-3-.02 (1) pertaining to the length of the school day be waived to allow all Williamson County high schools, middle schools and two elementary schools to implement a *late start schedule* on the days listed above for the 2015-2016 school year. We are not requesting to change the ending time of any of our other elementary schools. Our school board has approved our late start schedules pending the Commissioner's continued approval of our "Power Monday" initiative.

Thank you for your support and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Looney", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Mike Looney, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Williamson County Schools

Attachment

2015-2016

Power Mondays

**August 24, August 31
September 14, September 21, September 28
October 5, October 26,
November 2, November 16
December 7
January 11, January 25
February 1, February 8, February 22, February 29
March 7, March 14
April 4, April 11, April 18, April 25**

(Students will report 45 minutes later than usual start time on these dates)