



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 19, 2015

***Via Electronic Mail***

Dr. Danny Weeks, Director of Schools  
Dickson County Schools  
817 N Charlotte Street  
Dickson, TN 37055

[dweeks@dcbe.org](mailto:dweeks@dcbe.org)

Dear Dr. Weeks:

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 an instructional day for Dickson County Schools. Pursuant to my above referenced authority, I hereby grant a waiver to Dickson County Schools of one instructional day during the period of February 21-March 2, 2015. Please revise the calendar in EIS to indicate the one day that is waived. Thank you for continuing to notify the Department of revisions to your school calendar.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Candice McQueen



## DICKSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Danny L. Weeks, Ed.D., Director of Schools  
817 North Charlotte Street  
Dickson, TN 37055  
Phone 615-446-7571 – Fax 615-441-1375  
dweeks@dcbe.org

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18 March 2015

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

Commissioner McQueen:

Please accept this letter as formal request for a waiver of the 180 instructional day requirement, due to the unusual weather conditions during the winter of 2014-15. As outlined in your 27 February e-mail, I believe you will find all of the items requested to justify the waiver of such days.

Dickson County extends the instructional day for students by 30 minutes in order to “stockpile” thirteen days. We use three of those as professional development days, and 10 for inclement weather days. (see attached plans).

In my fifteen years of assisting in making decisions about the weather, I have never experienced such an unusual winter. Due to hazardous road conditions, Dickson County Schools were closed from Tuesday, February 17, 2015 through Friday, February 27, 2015. With the additional snow which came in the following week, we also missed Thursday and Friday March 5 & 6, for a total of eleven days. At this time, assuming that we are through with wintry weather, we are requesting a waiver of that eleventh day.

At present, our school calendar carries us through Saturday, May 23, 2015. If we had to make an adjustment to the calendar, we would have to push the Saturday to an instructional day, and then add an additional day to the following week. This would push our calendar after the Memorial Day holiday. We do not believe this is in the best interest of our students or staff.



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Enclosed, you will find several articles and pieces of information to support our request.

Should you need additional information or have questions, I would be glad for you to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration and your understanding of the circumstances surrounding this issue.

Respectfully,

Danny L. Weeks, Ed.D.  
Director of Schools

Enclosures (15)