



**BILL HASLAM**  
GOVERNOR

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

**CANDICE MCQUEEN**  
COMMISSIONER

**Via Electronic Mail and USPS**

May 30, 2017

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

Re: Waiver for Late Start Schedule – “Power Monday” for the 2017-2018 School Year

Dear Director Looney:

I am in receipt of your May 16, 2017 letter requesting the continued approval of a waiver to allow all Williamson County high schools and middle schools to implement a “Power Monday” initiative for the 2017-2018 school year. The Tennessee Department of Education has previously approved this concept during the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. You propose to implement the “Power Monday” initiative by adding seven minutes to the end of each school day for participating schools during the 2017-2018 school year. Students would begin school forty-five (45) minutes later than normal one time per week during the school year. The extra minutes would be used to allow students to begin school forty-five (45) minutes later than usual on twenty-one (21) Mondays during the school year so that teachers could use the time to come together for professional development opportunities.

T.C.A. §49-6-3004(e)(1) provides that the commissioner of education 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 and middle schools for the 2017-2018 school year.

Sincerely,

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

Candice McQueen  
Commissioner

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



May 16, 2017

Commissioner Candice McQueen  
Tennessee Department of Education  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
9<sup>th</sup> 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 and middle 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 21 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 nine school years. Our secondary principals desire to continue this kind of professional development. Therefore, I am asking that all high schools and middle schools in our district be able to add 7 minutes to the end of their school day each day during the year for 2017-2018. 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. 21, Aug. 28, Sept. 14, Sept. 11, Sept. 18, Sept. 25, Oct. 16, Oct. 23, Oct. 30, Nov. 13, Dec. 4, Dec. 11, for first semester. Second semester will be Jan. 22, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 26, Mar. 5, Mar. 12, Apr. 2, Apr. 16, and April 23.**

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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 and middle schools to implement a *late start schedule* on the days listed above for the 2017-2018 school year. Thank you for your support and assistance.

Sincerely,

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

Mike Looney, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Williamson County Schools