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 11, 2015

Via Electronic Mail
Pat Yearwood Ward, Director
Otter Creek Kindergarten and Preschool
409 Franklin Road
Brentwood, TN 37027

pat@ottercreek.org

Dear Ms. Yearwood Ward:

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 Otter Creek Kindergarten and Preschool. Pursuant to my above referenced authority, I hereby grant a waiver to Otter Creek Kindergarten and Preschool 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,

Dr. Candice McQueen

Dr. Candance McQueen, Commissioner

Tennessee Department of Education

9th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower

710 James Roberstson Pkwy.

Nashville, Tn 37243

Dear Dr. McQueen,

I am submitting a petition that you grant Otter Creek Kindergarten and Preschool a waiver of the 180 days of instruction due to the Level 2 State of Emergency declared by Governor Bill Haslam. We are a small, church owned preschool and kindergarten. The school was started in 1960 and has always held high academic standards. When Kindergarten became mandatory in the State of Tennessee, the Otter Creek School fell under the oversight of the Department of Education rather than the Department of Human Services. We have 2 kindergarten classes with a total of 37 kindergarten students. The rest of our population is made up of two year olds through pre-k. We follow Lipscomb Academy when cancelling school, because we can often have school when David and Williamson Counties have to cancel due to bus transportation. We had one snow day built in which was April 3 and we will be going to school on that day. We do not have the capacity to stockpile days because our hours of instruction are 9am until 2 pm daily. We have missed a total of 7 days. Any waiver of days that you can grant us will be helpful. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Yearwood Ward

Director of Otter Creek Kindergarten and Preschool

409 Franklin Rd.

Brentwood, Tn 37027

pat@ottercreek.org

Paul Rainwater

From:	Candice McQueen
Sent:	Wednesday, March 11, 2015 8:07 AM
To:	Paul Rainwater; Christy Ballard
Subject:	FW:
Attachments:	Waiver request.docx

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

EDUCATION

From: Pat Ward <pat@ottercreek.org>
Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 6:54 AM
To: Candice McQueen <candice.mcqueen@tn.gov>
Subject: <no subject>

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

This is a copy of my formal letter request.

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Miss Pat

Principal

Otter Creek Kindergarten

"Preparing the child for the path, not the path for the child."

373-0282