



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

Larry M. Foster, Director of Schools
Anderson County Schools
Suite 500 101 South Main
Clinton, TN 37716

lfoster@acs.ac

Dear Mr. Foster:

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.

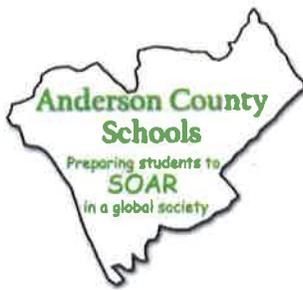
On February 21, Governor Haslam declared a Level 2 State of Emergency – Major Disaster – due to the extreme weather conditions throughout the state. This State of Emergency extended through March 2, representing six school days. Because of the unique and rare circumstances of our recent weather and the 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 Anderson County Schools. Pursuant to my above referenced authority, I hereby grant a waiver to Anderson 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 cursive script that reads "Candice McQueen".

Dr. Candice McQueen



Office of the Director of Schools

101 South Main Street, Suite 501

Clinton, Tennessee 37716

Office: (865) 463-2800, x 2801

Fax: (865) 457-9157

Larry M. Foster, Director

March 10, 2015

Commissioner of Education Candice McQueen

710 James Robertson Parkway, 9th Floor

Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Commissioner McQueen,

Anderson County Schools 2014-2015 school calendar was approved with ten stockpile days in the school year; nine (9) days for inclement weather and one (1) day for professional development. Over the past two months, the system exceeded the allocated stockpiled days due to inclement weather. Therefore, we are requesting a waiver for three (3) days of instruction time missed during the *Level 2 State of Emergency* which was in effect February 21 through March 3, 2015. Anderson County Schools missed a total of 13 days for inclement weather: January 16 and 27; February 17-20; February 23-27 and March 5-6, 2015. The district calendar has only two (2) days that can be used for makeup, April 6, an administrative day in lieu of parent teacher conferences which were held on September 16, 2014 and February 10, 2015; and May 18, 2015, a professional development day which could be changed to an instructional day to make up missed time without extending the school year. Currently, we feel the professional development day is essential in the planning process for the next school year. The agenda is attached for your review.

The system plans to make up the fourth day on April 6, 2015 pending your decision on the request for a three-day waiver. If the waiver is not granted, we will make up two of our four missed days on April 6 and May 18, 2015 and we will extend the school year by two days to make up the other two.

Thank you for your consideration of our request for a waiver. If you should need any additional information, please email me at lfoster@acs.ac or contact me at 865-463-2800, x 2801.

Sincerely,

Larry M. Foster

Director

cc: Paul Rainwater

Paul Rainwater

From: Pam Crawford <pcrawford@acs.ac> on behalf of Larry Foster <lfoster@acs.ac>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 4:43 PM
To: Commissioner McQueen
Cc: Paul Rainwater; Larry Foster; Tim Parrott
Subject: Request for Waiver - Anderson County Schools
Attachments: Ltr to Comm McQueen re waiver r1.pdf

Importance: High

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

Please see the attached letter from Larry M. Foster, Director of Schools, regarding a waiver for inclement weather days. A hard copy will follow via U. S. mail.

Thank you,

Pam Crawford
For Larry M. Foster

Pam Crawford
Administrative Assistant to Larry M. Foster
Director of Schools
ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS
101 S. Main Street, Suite 501
Clinton, TN 37716
865-463-2800, x 2800

May 18th Professional Development Agenda

Pre-planning during May 13th PLC time: We will be reviewing student data from state assessments, benchmark tests, and common assessments. What do the data tell us?

May 18th

8:00-11:00: School-wide discussion

Did we reach our SMART goals for the 2014-15 school year? If so, why? If not, why not? Consider:

- Student data, graduation rate, attendance rate
- TCAP, EOC and Writing Assessment data
- Benchmark test results
- Discipline reports

11:00-12:30: School-wide discussion

Looking at the data, what should our focus be for the first nine weeks next year?

12:30-1:30 Lunch

1:30 3:30: Grade level or core content meetings

Start the planning process for SMART goals for the 2015-16 school year.

May 20th PLC: Finalize plans for goals and objectives for the first nine weeks of the 2015-16 school year