



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 10, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Edwin Jarnagin, Director of Schools
Grainger County Schools
7850 Rutledge Pike
Rutledge, TN 37861

jarnagine@k12tn.net

Dear Mr. Jarnagin:

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 Grainger County Schools. Pursuant to my above referenced authority, I hereby grant a waiver to Grainger 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

Paul Rainwater

From: Edwin Jarnagin <jarnagine@k12tn.net>
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 3:06 PM
To: Paul Rainwater
Cc: atkinsj2@k12tn.net; Linda Hodges; Edwin Jarnagin
Subject: Grainger County Schools--THREE (3) INSTURCTIONAL DAYS--WAIVER REQUEST

Mr. Paul Rainwater:

I have included Grainger County Schools waiver request for THREE (3) INSTURCTIONAL DAYS to be waived for the system. As of today, Grainger County Schools have missed fifteen (15) instructional days and one (1) inservice day. I, along with my parents and students, appreciate the opportunity to ask for this **3-day waiver**. Wow what a winter it has been....

1. The specific circumstances leading to the request

Grainger County Schools have exceeded the inclement weather stockpiled days by five (5). As of close of school on Friday, March 6, 2015, the school system had missed fifteen (15) instructional days and one (1) inservice day.

2. The number of stockpiled days designated in the district calendar and the use of these stockpiled days

For the 2014-2015 school year Grainger County Schools had:

- Ten (10) Stockpiled/Inclement Weather Days
- Three (3) Stockpiled/Staff Development Days
- Grainger County Schools used one (1) Stockpiled/Staff Development Day on February 13, 2015
- Grainger County Schools would like to convert Friday, March 13, 2015 from a Stockpiled/Staff Development Day to a Stockpiled/Inclement Weather Day and students will be attending school (see issues and expense this has caused in item #3)
- May 1, 2015 is the last Staff Development Day and Grainger County Schools needs to have this time with staff (if at all possible) to prepare for summer inservice, new test, RTI and the 2015-16 school year
- Also, one teacher inservice day that was missed is scheduled to be made up after the regular school day (during two (2) one-half day evening sessions)

3. The inability of the district to make up the instructional days

- Dated Graduation Announcements have been printed
- The Walters State Community College Facility has been rented for Grainger High Graduation and there is no facility large enough in Grainger County to host the event. Receiving the three (3) day waiver prevents disruptions to the scheduled graduation. Without the waiver, the school year will have to be extended.
- Already making up an inservice day after school hours
- Grainger County Schools works hard to encourage good student attendance. Parents and students are asked to schedule appointments (Dentist, Orthodontics, Vision, Doctor, etc.) days school is not in session. As of Friday,

March 6, 2015, students will be required to attend on two days that were previously student holidays (March 13 and March 16).

- The March 13 day was previously a Staff Development Day and Grainger County Schools had outside trainers arriving to conduct. Their flights cannot be refunded. The system is paying teachers a stipend on Thursday, March 12 to attend after school hours and supplying some substitutes on March 13 for extended training. This is expensive, but the need to improve is of utmost importance.

In advance, thanks for your help.

Respectfully submitted,

Edwin Jarnagin
Director of Schools
Grainger County Schools
P.O. Box 38
7850 Rutledge Pike
Rutledge, Tennessee 37861

Teach. Learn. Succeed.

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