



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 3, 2015

***Via Electronic Mail***

Mischelle Simcox, Director of Schools  
Johnson County Schools  
211 N Church Street  
Mountain City, TN 37683-1326

msimcox@k12tn.net

Dear Dr. Simcox:

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



**JOHNSON COUNTY SCHOOLS**  
211 North Church Street ♦ Mountain City, TN 37683  
(423) 727-2640 ♦ FAX (423) 727-2663  
[www.jocoed.k12tn.net](http://www.jocoed.k12tn.net)

**DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS**

**Dr. Mischelle Simcox**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Kevin Long, Chair**  
**Brad Dunn, Vice-Chair**  
**Howard Carlton**  
**Bill Gambill**  
**Kenny Gregg**

March 2, 2015

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

Dear Commissioner McQueen,

I am formally requesting that Johnson County be permitted to waive three instructional days of the 180-day instructional requirement.

Johnson County is the most northeastern district in Tennessee and we receive more snow and ice than most of the state. We designate all 13 stockpiled days for inclement weather in our district calendar. We also add five extra days to the end of the calendar in case we go over the stockpiled days. As of today, we have missed a total of 15 days because of weather conditions in Johnson County. We do not have the luxury of a spring break that most systems have. We take Good Friday and Easter Monday off from school. It would help us if you allow us to waive three instructional days. We are already looking into the extended days. It is possible for us to miss more days in the months of March and April. If this should happen we would need to extend our calendar after Memorial Day. Parents have already made vacation plans and would not be happy if we have to extend the school year and they would have to cancel their plans.

I want to thank you in advance for your consideration to waive three instructional days.

Respectfully,

Dr. Mischelle Simcox  
Director of Schools

## Paul Rainwater

---

**From:** Candice McQueen  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 9:26 PM  
**To:** Paul Rainwater; Christy Ballard  
**Cc:** Hanseul Kang; Janice Mann  
**Subject:** FW: Waiver Request  
**Attachments:** Waiver Request to Commissioner.doc; School Changes 2014-2015.docx

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



---

**From:** Rose Rasmussen <[rasmussenr@k12tn.net](mailto:rasmussenr@k12tn.net)>  
**Date:** Monday, March 2, 2015 at 1:20 PM  
**To:** Candice McQueen <[candice.mcqueen@tn.gov](mailto:candice.mcqueen@tn.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mischelle Simcox <[msimcox@k12tn.net](mailto:msimcox@k12tn.net)>  
**Subject:** Waiver Request

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

Dear Commissioner McQueen,

I have attached a letter from the director of schools requesting a waiver of three instructional days. I have also attached the list of school changes that we have made because of our extreme weather conditions this year. I am not sure what other documentation you need from us for you to grant our request. If you need other documentation or have any questions about our request please contact me or Dr. Mischelle Simcox the director of schools. I have mailed the original signed copy of the letter to you.

Thank you so much for your time with this matter.

Respectfully,

Rose Rasmussen  
Attendance Supervisor  
Johnson County Schools  
211 North Church Street  
Mountain City, TN 37683  
Phone: 423-727-2640  
Fax: 423-727-2663