



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

Dr. Bill Heath, Director of Schools
Lawrence County Schools
700 Mahr Avenue
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464-2621

bheath@lcss.us

Dear Dr. Heath:

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 Lawrence County Schools. Pursuant to my above referenced authority, I hereby grant a waiver to Lawrence County Schools of two instructional days during the period of February 21-March 2, 2015. Please revise the calendar in EIS to indicate the two 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

BRENDA JACOBS, CHAIRMAN, 33 IDAHO ROAD, LEOMA, TN 38468
ROBERTA BRAZIER, 175 REED PATCH ROAD, LAWRENCEBURG, TN 38464
JERRY CAMPBELL, 205 WEST POINT ROAD, LAWRENCEBURG, TN 38464
KEVIN CARUSO, 1805 SPRINGER ROAD, LAWRENCEBURG, TN 38464
LARRY DAVIS, 602 2ND AVE. S, LORETTO, TN 38469

JOEY HARDIN, 1319 TURNPIKE, SUMMERTOWN, TN 38483
NICKY HARTSFIELD, 818 DOUGLAS DRIVE, LAWRENCEBURG, TN 38464
RICKY MABRY, 31 FREEDOM ROAD, MT. PLEASANT, TN 38474
DONNA WELLS, 315 VIRGINIA DRIVE, LAWRENCEBURG, TN 38464

LAWRENCE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

DR. BILL HEATH, Director of Schools
700 MAHR AVENUE
LAWRENCEBURG, TN 38464
(931) 762-3581 Fax (931) 766-1919

March 11, 2015

Candice McQueen, Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Education
Andrew Jackson Tower
Nashville, TN 37243-0375

Commissioner McQueen:

Please accept this letter as an official request to waive the 180-day instructional requirement for the 2014-2015 school year for Lawrence County Schools. Lawrence County Schools has eight stockpile days but has now missed ten days, eight for weather and two for influenza. The dates are as follows:

February 5	influenza
February 6	influenza
February 17	weather
February 18	weather
February 19	weather
February 20	weather
February 23	weather
February 26	weather
March 5	weather
March 6	weather

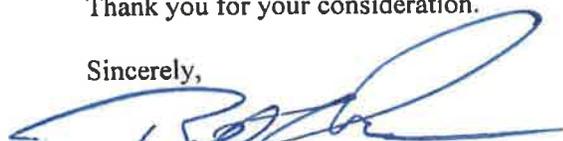
only two days
2/21 to 3/2

- Attendance criteria we use to determine to close schools due to illness includes absenteeism approaching 20% and on an upward trend. This was the data used for February 5 & 6.
- The Lawrence County Schools calendar includes eight stockpile days for weather and five used for professional development.
- The options to 'make-up' these days in our current calendar are limited, and would have to occur at the end of the year.

In summary, I am officially requesting the waiver of three days for Lawrence County Schools.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bill Heath, Director
Lawrence County Schools

MISSION STATEMENT

Schools and the Community: Working Together for Student Success

The Lawrence County School System does not discriminate in employment or educational opportunity on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, veteran, or other protected status covered by federal, state, or local law.

Paul Rainwater

From: Candice McQueen
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 2:46 PM
To: Paul Rainwater
Cc: Christy Ballard
Subject: Fwd: Lawrence County Waiver Request
Attachments: Lawrencecountywaiverrequest031115.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bill Heath <bheath@lcss.us>
Date: March 11, 2015 at 2:24:58 PM CDT
To: <Candice.McQueen@tn.gov>
Subject: Lawrence County 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. *****

Please see the attached waiver request of the 180 instructional day rule for Lawrence County Schools. A hardcopy follows.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bill Heath, Ed.D.
Director of Schools
Lawrence County Schools

Schools and Community Working Together for Student Success