

**RESOLUTION OF THE TIPTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN WAIVERS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR DUE TO COVID-19**

WHEREAS, the Tipton County Board of Education is responsible for providing a local system of public education;

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a global pandemic that can lead to serious illness or death and spreads through close contact among individuals;

WHEREAS, beginning on March 12, 2020, Governor Bill Lee declared Tennessee to be in a state of emergency until June 30, 2020, pursuant to Executive Orders 14 and 36, due to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, beginning on March 16, 2020, Tennessee schools were closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, in response to requests made by Governor Bill Lee that they close to combat the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Tennessee General Assembly through Public Chapter 652 approved the cancellation of state standardized testing for the 2019-2020 school year and waiver of the 180 instructional day requirement, inter alia, due to the statewide closure of schools and subsequent lack of standardized instruction being delivered to students;

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2020, the Tennessee State Board of Education approved Emergency Rule 0520-01-17-.01, which requires Tennessee school districts to provide students in grades one (1) through twelve (12) access to six and one half (6 ½) hours of instructional time each school day during the 2020-2021 school year, even if there are school closures or disruptions related to outbreaks of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, by Executive Order 50 signed by Governor Bill Lee on June 29, 2020, the state of Tennessee is to remain in a state of emergency until at least August 29, 2020 and COVID-19 continues to spread at a rapid rate in Tennessee;

WHEREAS, Tennessee schools, in order to comply with State Board requirements, will likely have to engage in remote learning, in whole or in part, during the 2020-2021 academic school year due to the continued spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, pursuant to State Board Emergency Rule 0520-01-17-.01, Tennessee school districts are required to each create and implement their own plans to facilitate continuous learning in light of the continued spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Tennessee school districts will be implementing different plans for learning from county to county across the state for the 2020-2021, based upon the needs of their students and COVID-19 outbreaks in each county;

WHEREAS, Tennessee students will likely face significant academic and behavioral regression upon returning to school, having lost approximately two (2) months of standard instruction and attendance due to the extended closure;

WHEREAS, when schools resume in August or September of 2020, students will have spent approximately five (5) consecutive months out of school;

WHEREAS, Tennessee school districts will be focused not only on student growth and safety, but also on recoupment of academic and social and emotional skills lost during the extended closure; and

WHEREAS, due to the continued impact of COVID-19, the same justifications for waivers for the 2019-2020 school year also apply to the 2020-2021 school year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tipton County Board of Education urges the General Assembly to enact legislation for the 2020-2021 school year that: (1) waives state standardized testing and accountability associated with such testing; (2) waives the 180 instructional day requirement pursuant to TCA § 49-6-3004; and (3) waives the requirement for six and one half (6 ½) hours of instructional time each school day.

Adopted and approved this 13th day of August 2020.

By: Marty Burlison  
Board Chair (Marty Burlison)

Attest: John Combs  
Director of Schools (John Combs)