

# FORT SMITH

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Doug Brubaker, Ph. D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

MAY 28, 2019

**VIA E-MAIL ONLY**

Mr. Johnny Key  
Commissioner  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Four Capitol Mall, Room 304-A  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
[Johnny.Key@arkansas.gov](mailto:Johnny.Key@arkansas.gov)

**Re: Fort Smith Public School District Emergency Request for Waiver**

Dear Mr. Key:

Due to the conditions described in this letter, the Fort Smith School District respectfully requests:

1. A waiver of Standard of Accreditation 1-A.5.1, which requires that each public school provide a minimum of 178 days of student/teacher interaction; and
2. A waiver of the timeline and process required by Rule 11.00 WAIVER AUTHORITY AND PROCESS.

Specifically, the District requests that it be relieved of the requirements of conducting school and requiring students and staff members to report on the final 3 days of the 2018/2019 school year for the following reasons:

- Fort Smith and surrounding areas are suffering from severe flooding, resulting in the declaration of a State of Emergency by the Governor;
- Another six (6") inches of rain are forecasted through Wednesday, with the expectation of flash flooding that will not drain quickly;
- The Arkansas River is expected to crest tomorrow, with more water scheduled to be released from Keystone Dam, which is at 112% capacity;
- The Highway 59 bridge has been the only way across the Arkansas River into town and is backed up into Van Buren; police have asked people to avoid using it;
- The District has 630 staff who live outside of the city, with 140 of them in Oklahoma; and

- There are a substantial number of staff members who live in town who have been displaced in the area.

Thank you for your consideration of the District's request.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Brubaker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Doug Brubaker, Ph.D.  
Superintendent