



April 8, 2025

State Board Members,

The Highland School District respectfully requests a waiver of the standards for accreditation for the alternative calendar mandatory hours requirement of 1068 hrs.

Due to inclement weather, the district was closed on the following dates: January 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, and February 18, 19, 20, and 21—nine (9) days.

Of those, five (5) days were built into the district's calendar. The remaining four (4) days were added to the end of the school year, which extended the final date of school to May 21, 2025.

Beginning the week of March 31, our area—along with much of the state—experienced significant rainfall, resulting in widespread flooding and impassable roads throughout the district. Compounding the issue, rising water levels compromised the Cherokee Village water system, which supplies our schools. As a result, a boil order was issued, forcing the district to cancel classes on Monday, April 7.

District administrators and staff worked diligently throughout April 7, 2025, to meet all Arkansas Department of Health guidelines, allowing us to safely resume instruction on Tuesday, April 8.

Given these extraordinary circumstances, we are requesting a waiver for the six and one-third (6 $\frac{1}{3}$) hours of instructional time missed on April 7.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeremy D. Lewis
Highland School District Superintendent