



where excellence live

May 29, 2024

Dear Secretary Oliva,

I'm writing on behalf of Bentonville Schools to request a waiver of 178 student contact days as we discussed over the weekend. Due to devastating storms on Sunday, May 26, 2024, in Bentonville, our District and community has sustained significant damage.

The last student instructional day was scheduled for Thursday, May 30; however, due to building damage, lack of electricity and inability to transport students due to impassable roads, the last day of school for students was May 24, 2024, which is 3 days short of the required 178 days since Monday was Memorial day. We did allow all students in grades 9-12 to voluntarily take their final exams because their grade was directly impacted by the final exam.

I originally asked for a teacher contract waiver of 190 days but that won't be necessary as we have provided virtual options for teachers to complete these days.

I also want to offer sincere thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Jones".

Debbie Jones

djones@bentonvillek12.org / (479) 254-5012
500 Tiger Boulevard Bentonville, AR 72712

bentonvillek12.org