

May 23, 2019

Joy Hofmeister  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Oklahoma Department of Education  
2500 North Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4599

Dear Superintendent Hofmeister:

Jenks Public Schools faced the difficult decision to end the 2018-2019 school year early after the City of Jenks issued a Disaster Emergency Declaration in response to flooding that began on May 21, 2019. The rising levels of the Arkansas River, brought on by record water releases from the Keystone Dam, led to flooding and impassable roads in portions of the district. In addition, projections from the Corps of Engineers indicated that flood levels could reach the 1986 mark, which would result in significant flooding in the City of Jenks and at the Jenks Public Schools central campus. Models indicated that if the levees surrounding the city did not hold, the school district could expect approximately 11 feet of water in this area.

The Jenks District's All Hazard Incident Management team was activated at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21. Personnel began monitoring conditions, sizing up the situation, developing contingency plans, and creating the organizational structure to execute these plans. The City of Jenks issued its Disaster Emergency Declaration, which is attached, on the afternoon of May 22, 2019. At that time, Jenks Public Schools announced May 22 would be the last day of school for students. We then encountered challenges transporting some students home. We are also aware families are preparing to evacuate in certain areas. This situation, which is beyond the district's control, has led to a shortage of 7 hours and 35 minutes to complete the required 1,080 hours per school year. However, Jenks Public Schools has been in session for 173 student days, which significantly exceeds the number of days that students attend in many other districts across the state.

We consulted with Don Gray, our Regional Accreditation Officer, regarding the applicable law and accreditation standards. He indicated that Oklahoma law includes a provision for addressing these circumstances when it states that, "A school district may maintain school for less than a full school year only when conditions beyond the control of school authorities make the maintenance of the term impossible and the State Board of Education has been apprised and has expressed concurrence in writing."

## **DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

DECLARATION OF THE CITY OF JENKS MAYOR, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS.

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma under 63 O.S. § 683.2 has recognized the existing and increasing possibility of the occurrence of disasters of unprecedented size and destructiveness, resulting from natural and man-made causes, and has sought to ensure that the state and its political subdivisions will adequately deal with such emergencies by protecting the public peace, health and safety, by preserving the lives and property of the people of the state, and to provide for recovery following the occurrence of a disaster; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jenks has now experienced a disaster in the form of flooding occurring on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has determined it is necessary for the City of Jenks to implement one or more sections of the Emergency Response Plan throughout the area generally described as the City of Jenks; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma has not declared a regional state of emergency and disaster area;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Jenks, Oklahoma that the City Mayor hereby declares a disaster in the above described area pursuant to 63 O.S. § 683.11. For the forgoing reasons, the City of Jenks is hereby authorized to immediately implement its Emergency Response Plan, and while so doing, the City will operate under the maximum exemption from liability offered under 63 O.S. § 683.14.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the officers of the City of Jenks Police Department and the Jenks Fire Marshall are authorized to fully implement 21 O.S. § 99a to the fullest extent throughout the City of Jenks.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that Administrative senior staff may ask for or provide mutual aid between and among other political subdivisions of the state and with other states. In addition, both the City Council and the Boards of Trustees of the Jenks Public Works and the Jenks Aquarium Authority shall call such emergency meetings or special meetings as may be necessary to authorized emergency contracts in amounts not exceeding the amounts allowed by applicable law.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event that the state or the federal government has also declared a disaster, the City of Jenks response to this disaster shall be under the direct supervision of City staff, but under the general supervision and authority of the Governor, whether acting directly or through the Office of Emergency Management; such acts shall be

under the standards for incident management contained in the National Incident Management System to the extent possible. In the event that the Governor has declared martial law, the Mayor shall act as head of government for purposes of military law under 11 O.S. § 10-105, with the City Manager acting as adjutant and Chief Operations Officer and Director of Civil Defense.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2019.



Robert Lee, Mayor



Rebecca Stewart, Acting as City Manager

Approved as to form:



Teresa Nowlin, City Attorney

Attest:



Walter Gerow, Acting City Clerk




In addition, Mr. Gray pointed us toward the applicable language in the accreditation standards.

- (i) If, because of emergency situations, school has been missed more than fifteen (15) days, the State Board of Education will consider forgiving a portion of those days or in rare instances all days missed, on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions to the fifteen (15) day minimum will be made at the recommendation of the State Superintendent and forgiveness will be considered by the State Board of Education on a case-by-case basis.

Jenks Public Schools requests your recommendation to the State Board of Education that the 7 hours and 35 minutes be waived in response to this emergency situation so the district may receive its full state aid allocation for 2018-2019. Please advise us as to any additional information that is needed or steps that should be taken.

We truly appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Stacey M. Butterfield, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



Lisa S. Muller, Ed.D.  
Associate Superintendent for Educational Services