

To: Vermont State Board of Education

From: Beth Cobb, Superintendent, Essex Westford School District



Re: Title 16: Education 16 V.S.A. § 1071 School year and school day - Petition for a waiver: Unanticipated closing

Date: March 28, 2018

As Superintendent of Essex Westford School District, I am requesting a waiver for an unanticipated closing for Essex Community Education Center Union High School District #46 and for the Center for Technology, Essex (CTE). The closing occurred on February 1, 2018. The students arrived at school, when we learned that Essex Junction had a major water line break. In some areas of the building we had no water, while other parts we had restroom facilities backed up. Due to the water issue and contamination threat, we sent students and employees home at 10:00 am. Later in the day, we learned of a contamination threat of drinking water and Essex Junction issued a boil water advisory. The boil water advisory continued into the next day, but we were prepared with bottled water and were able to run a "normal" day for students and staff.

Our high school and CTE were the only schools in our district that were affected by the water issue. Since our high school and CTE would be the only schools in session on the making up day, this could potentially cause a hardship on families and a financial burden our district. Families count on their older children for babysitting and our busses would need to run their full routes with partial ridership.

If you accept this waiver, the students that attend our high school and CTE will have a total of 174 student days in FY18, this includes making up four weather related days. Thank you for your time and consideration of a one day waiver for Essex Community Education Center Union High School and the Center for Technology.