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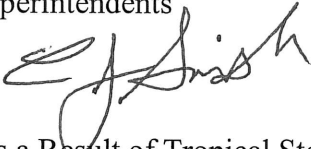
Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education



August 28, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Eric J. Smith 

SUBJECT: School Closures as a Result of Tropical Storm Fay

The 2008-09 school year certainly began with the usual challenges and the less-than-usual experience of Tropical Storm Fay. Many school districts were forced to deal with the opening of shelters, flood conditions, power outages, and other issues which resulted in school closures throughout the state of up to four days. Because this emergency condition occurred early in the school year, I recommend that districts utilize existing flexibility in the school calendars to make up the instructional days that were missed by students.

Although State Board Rule 6A-1.09533, FAC., and Section 1011.60(2), F.S., grant authority for the waiver of up to three days of the required 180 days of instruction for emergencies, it is advisable to delay use of this provision as it may be needed later in the school year. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.