



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

By email
September 14, 2021

Jahmal Mosley, Superintendent
South Hadley Public Schools
116 Main Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

Re: Request for a waiver pursuant to 603 CMR 27.06

Dear Superintendent Mosley:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education received your request for a waiver dated September 13, 2021. In your request, you explained that South Hadley High School (SHHS) is currently closed due to ongoing mold mitigation work at the school. You asked to be able to provide instruction remotely to high school students to allow them to connect with their teachers and peers, and reduce further learning loss.¹ You further described in detail SHHS's remote learning plan, which would involve daily synchronous instruction. The plan includes specific provisions for ensuring that students with disabilities, English learners, and other students needing additional supports would receive all appropriate services.

As you know, remote instruction generally does not count toward structured learning time. However, in light of the extraordinary circumstances at SHHS, and for the good cause outlined in your waiver request, the Commissioner will grant a waiver to permit remote learning for SHHS for no more than 5 school days. As a result, for this school year only, SHHS must provide in-person instruction for a minimum of 175 school days, and may provide remote instruction for a maximum of 5 school days. Please note, it is unlikely that I will extend the waiver to include additional school days. After the disruption of last school year, when many districts, including South Hadley, experienced significant learning loss, it is essential that students receive in-person learning this school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey C. Riley".

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

¹ The waiver request does not include the students who participate in CTEC. Those students will continue to attend and receive their vocational education according to the CTEC guidelines.