



BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NINTH FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

CANDICE MCQUEEN
COMMISSIONER

Via Electronic Mail and USPS

May 30, 2017

Jerry S. Boyd, Director of Schools
Putnam County Schools
1400 East Spring Street
Cookeville, TN 38506

Re: Waiver for Uniform Grading System for 2016-2017 Freshman Class

Dear Director Boyd:

I am in receipt of your May 25, 2017 letter requesting a waiver of the uniform grading system requirements found in T.C.A. §49-6-407(c) for the 2017-2018 freshman class attending Putnam County Schools. According to your letter, the timing of the implementation of the new requirements that passed in the spring 2016 legislative session did not allow sufficient time to adapt your policies for the 2016-2017 freshman class.

The commissioner is granted authority under T.C.A. §49-1-201(d) to "waive any state board rule or statute that inhibits or hinders the LEA's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission."

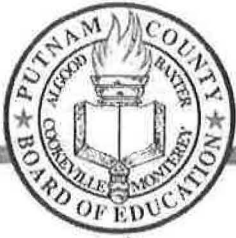
With the understanding that the uniform grading system requirements under T.C.A. §49-6-407(c) will be implemented for the 2017-2018 freshman class, your waiver request is hereby granted for one year.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Candice McQueen".

Candice McQueen
Commissioner



PUTNAM COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

ENGAGE INSPIRE ACHIEVE

May 25, 2017

Via Electronic Mail

Dr. Candice McQueen
Commissioner of Education
Tennessee Department of Education
9th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37423-0375

Dear Dr. McQueen:

On behalf of the Putnam County Board of Education, I am formally requesting a waiver to delay the implementation of the application of T.C.A. 49-6-407, specifically the state prescribed quality points for a locally adopted grading system approved by the Tennessee State Board of Education in October 2016 to be implemented with the 2016-2017 freshman class (TN SBE Policy 3.301, page 4, section 3).

Prior to the approval of the revision of the State Board of Education Policy 3.301: Uniform Grading Policy, our local Board policy provided weighted quality points to all advanced academic courses that included Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Dual Enrollment, Duel Credit, and locally designated honors courses. Many students in the class of 2016-2017 had completed one or more weighted courses in middle school prior to officially entering high school in July 2016. Many began the 2016-2017 school year anticipating the application of the locally adopted policy assigning specific quality points to advanced academic courses in our three high schools.

Our Board understands that the local Board policy relative to the application of quality points to advanced academic and early post-secondary opportunity courses will need to align to the revised SBE Uniform Grading Policy moving forward. However, this request is to specifically waive the implementation of the new requirements for the locally adopted grading system to be effective with the 2017-2018 freshman class. Although the law requiring the revisions was passed in the Spring 2016 legislative session, we contend that implementation of the changes with the 2016-2017 freshman class was insufficient time to completely change our locally adopted practices, especially in light of the fact a significant number of students had completed advanced academic course work for high school credit in their middle school years.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me directly if you have any questions that I need to address to facilitate your decisions and response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry S. Boyd".

Jerry S. Boyd
Superintendent