



**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 & USPS**

April 26, 2017

Dr. Brian Bell, Director of Schools  
Ms. Patty Thomas, Director of Career & Technical Education  
Alcoa City Schools  
524 Faraday Street  
Alcoa, TN 37701

Re: Waiver for Career and Technical Education Classes

Dear Dr. Bell and Ms. Thomas:

I am in receipt of your April 26, 2017 letter requesting a waiver of the class size average for Career and Technical Education classes found in T.C.A. §49-1-104 for the Alcoa City School system for the 2017-2018 school year.

The commissioner's waiver authority under T.C.A. §49-1-201(d) is limited by T.C.A. §49-1-104(a), which states that "neither the commissioner nor the state board of education shall grant waivers from the maximum class sizes established in this section."

With the understanding that none of the Career and Technical Education classes in the Alcoa City School system will exceed 25, the maximum number of students per class specified in the above referenced law, your request for a waiver of the class size average is granted for the 2017-2018 school year.

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

Sincerely,

Candice McQueen  
Commissioner



April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dr. Candice McQueen  
Commissioner of Education  
Tennessee Department of Education  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Commissioner McQueen,

Alcoa City Schools would like to request an exemption to the Tennessee Annotated Code, section 49-1-104 statute that currently limits the building-level average for CTE courses to 20 students, for the 2017-18 school year.

Alcoa City Schools continues to see an increase in our high school population and currently we are seeing an increase in course requests for our CTE programs. Projected numbers show that all of our CTE classes will be at maximum capacity. Limiting the class size average to 20 would prohibit students from being able to participate in courses such as health science and STEM, that align with our current workforce needs. The mission of Alcoa City Schools is to graduate competitive students. Eliminating the class size average of 20 students per CTE course will allow more students to choose a CTE elective focus and will allow us to focus on creating more opportunities for students to gain vital college and career preparedness skills.

To better prepare our students for the future, we request that the exemption to the TCA Code, section 49-1-104 be granted for the 2017-18 school year. Alcoa High School will keep CTE class sizes at 25 and clinical internship courses at 15, but we respectfully request that the building-level average of 20 students be waived.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Brian Bell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Bell", written over a circular stamp.

Alcoa City Schools  
Director of Schools

Ms. Patty Thomas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty Thomas", written in a cursive style.

Alcoa City Schools  
Director of Career & Technical Education