



BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

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

PENNY SCHWINN
COMMISSIONER

Via Electronic Mail

May 24, 2023

Rebecca Stone, Director of Schools
Alcoa City Schools
524 Faraday Street
Alcoa, TN 37701-2098

Re: Waiver for Career and Technical Education Classes at Alcoa High School

Dear Director Stone:

I am in receipt of your May 24, 2023 letter requesting a waiver of the class size average for Career and Technical Education classes found in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104 for Alcoa High School in Alcoa City Schools for the 2023-24 school year.

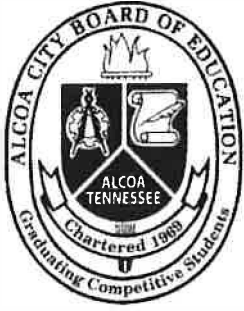
The commissioner's waiver authority under Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-201(d) is limited by Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104(a), which states that "neither the commissioner nor the state board of education shall grant waivers from the maximum class sizes established in this section."

With the understanding that none of the Career and Technical Education classes at Alcoa High School 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 2023-24 school year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Penny Schwinn
Commissioner



**ALCOA CITY SCHOOLS
GRADUATING COMPETITIVE STUDENTS**

**BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
RIGOROUS EXPECTATIONS
RELEVANT INSTRUCTION**

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ALCOA, TENNESSEE 37701
(865) 984-0531
FAX (865) 984-5832

Rebecca Stone
Director of Schools

May 24th, 2023

Dr. Penny Schwinn
Commissioner of Education
Tennessee Department of Education
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Commissioner Schwinn,

For the past six years, Alcoa City Schools has requested an exemption to the Tennessee Annotated Code, section 49-1-104 statute that limits the building-level average for CTE courses to 20 students. Once again, for the 2023-24 school year, Alcoa City Schools is requesting an exemption to the building-level class-size average.

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 enrollment shows that of our CTE classes will be over the building maximum average. Limiting the class size average to 20 would prohibit students from being able to participate in courses such as health science and engineering, that align with our current workforce needs. Eliminating the building class size average will also allow us to expand work-based learning offerings to our students. The mission of Alcoa City Schools is to graduate competitive students. Eliminating the class size average of 20 students per CTE course will ultimately allow more students to choose a CTE elective focus and 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 2023-24 school year. Alcoa High School will keep CTE class size maximums at 25 and clinical internship course size maximums at 15, but we respectfully request that the building-level average of 20 students be waived to allow us a building-level average of 25.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mrs. Rebecca Stone



Director of Schools

Mrs. Patty Thomas



Director of Career & Technical Education